

HELICOPTER SERVICE IN THE STATE OF MANIPUR

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A. "HELICOPTER SERVICES IN NORTH EASTERN REGION, UT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR, UT OF LADAKH AND STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH".

□ Government of Manipur at present is operating Passenger Helicopter Service under the name "Manipur Heli Service" with the support of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India since 2018 till date.

□ For implementation of this scheme, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India is providing 75% subsidy on the expenditure/cost of operation of the Helicopter service and remaining 25 % is borne by the State Government.

□ Through this scheme, Department of Transport is operating Non-Scheduled Operators Permit (NSOP) passenger helicopter services along the following routes:

(i) Imphal- Moreh- Imphal (ii) Imphal – Jribam- Imphal (iii) Imphal-Tamenglong-Imphal .

□ Presently, the helicopter service provider is M/s Global Vectra Helicorp Limited.

Further, in recent times, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India have also approved for operation of Inter-state Helicopter service for connecting Imphal-Churachandpur-Mualpui (Aizawl), Mizoram and Imphal-Kangpokpi/Senapati-Dimapur. The two new inter-state routes have been operationalized from 27th September, 2023 and 1st November, 2023 respectively.



BRIEF STATUS OF SERVICE PROVIDED UNDER THE MHA HELICOPTER SUBSIDY SCHEME:

❑ In the last five years (2018-2023), the Manipur Heli Service have provided Helicopter service to some **31,163 passengers** while also undertaking emergency relief & rescue operations and medical emergency evacuations in various parts of the State *at a cost of about 62 crore rupees with a total flying hour of more than 2500 hours.*

❑ **DETAILS ON SUBSIDY REIMBURSED YEAR WISE ON EACH ROUTE (BY CENTRE/STATE) is as given below:**

Sl. No.	Year	No. of Helicopter movements	Flying Hours	No. of Passengers travelled	Revenue Generation (Ticket Share)	State Share	MHA Share	Total Operating Cost
1	2019	968	586:22:00	4197	90,38,000	₹ 2,73,89,029	₹ 7,33,36,982	₹ 10,97,64,011
2	2020	532	280:55:00	3617	1,00,92,313	₹ 3,96,26,100	₹ 7,45,77,619	₹ 12,42,96,032
3	2021	1118	564:30:00	7950	2,03,22,600	₹ 3,86,62,878	₹ 8,84,78,217	₹ 14,74,63,695
4	2022	1232	636:30:00	9814	2,78,99,700	₹ 3,34,95,658	₹ 9,11,19,638	₹ 15,25,14,996
5	2023	858	440:00:00	5585	1,69,61,600	₹ 2,16,31,712	₹ 5,70,91,681	9,56,84,993
	Grand Total	4708	2508:17:00	31163	8,43,14,213	₹ 16,08,05,376	₹ 38,46,04,138	₹ 62,97,23,727

B. HELICOPTER SERVICE UNDER RCS-UDAN (REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY SYSTEM- UDE DESH KA AAM NAGRIK) SCHEME.

- ❑ Under this scheme of Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of Manipur is taking up infrastructure development and construction of 5 (five) Heliports at Jiribam, Moreh, Parbung, Tamenglong and Thanlon.
- ❑ Target for completion is before end of March, 2024.
- ❑ However, Government of Manipur and M/s Pawan Hans Limited is working on launching of RCS UDAN NSOP Helicopter service in the State at an early date.

C. POTENTIAL/SCOPE OF AIR CONNECTIVITY INCLUDING HELICOPTER SERVICE IN THE STATE OF MANIPUR

❑ Manipur is a small State, however, the hilly terrain nature of the State makes it difficult and time consuming to travel from one place to another, especially the district headquarters. In some areas it still take even a full day to reach once destinations. In such a situation, the Helicopter service is considered as convenient and viable means to shorter, faster and easier means of travelling at affordable prices.

❑ INCREASING DEMAND FOR INTRODUCTION OF NEW HELI SERVICE ROUTE:

There is an increasing demand of the District Administration as well as the people of the State for introduction of new Helicopter service route for connection of remote districts such as Ukhru, Kamjong, Senapati etc. Since, only one Helicopter is being deployed by the State under the MHA Helicopter scheme, the Department is not able to meet or cater to the rising needs of the people of the State.

❑ NEED FOR MORE SUPPORT FROM MoCA:

The RCS UDAN 2.0 scheme, once materialize, will enable the State Government to provide air connectivity to few more remote areas of the State. But it will still not be enough to meet the rising demands and more such infrastructure facilities are required.

❑ For these, there is the need for more funding and supporting the NE States for development of infrastructures to provide Air connectivity to more remote areas, not only the State of Manipur but for all other NE States.

❑ **SCOPE FOR INCREASING FLIGHT FREQUENCY:**

The to & fro movement of the people of the State by Air Transport has increased over the years and there is vast scope for further increasing the flight frequency connecting Imphal International Airport with other important cities of the Country such as Kolkata, Delhi etc.

❑ At present there is growing demand for introduction of early morning flight from Imphal – Delhi (5:30AM) and late evening flight reaching Imphal from Delhi or Kolkata (around 7:00PM to 8:00PM).

❑ **ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY WITH OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES:**

❑ Manipur is strategically located and is one of the important gateway to other South-East and East Asian Countries. Under, the UDAN International scheme of MoCA, Govt. of India, plans may be taken up for connecting Imphal International Airport with other capital cities of the South – East & East Asian countries for the purpose of promotion of economic as well as tourism activities.

❑ This mechanism in the long run will also help boost the economy of the State and also promote and foster closer ties with our neighbouring countries.

THANK YOU

