

### **Helicopter Service in the North Eastern States**

In order to provide connectivity to remote areas as also for providing air connectivity to the North Eastern areas with rest of India, helicopter services are in operation in the six States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim Tripura and Mizoram under Non-Plan Scheme with subsidy from the Ministry of Home Affairs. The subsidy is limited to 75% of operational cost after adjusting recovery from passengers. For the purpose of restricting subsidy, annual ceiling of flying hours for each helicopter has been fixed. The competent authority has given sanction for operation of helicopter services as per details given below:

<b>Helicopter on wet lease by State Govts</b>	<b>Type of Helicopter</b>	<b>No. of flying hours sanctioned per annum</b>
Tripura	Dauphin Double Engine	480
Arunachal Pradesh	1st MI-172	960
	2nd MI-172	1200
	Bell-412 Double Engine	1300
Sikkim	Bell-406 Single Engine/Double Engine	1200
Meghalaya	Dauphin Double Engine	720
Nagaland	Dauphin/Bell Double Engine	480
Mizoram	Dauphin Double Engine	960

The State Governments are permitted to operate helicopter services in excess of the ceiling of flying hours. However, the subsidy is limited to flying hours ceiling fixed for each type of helicopter being operated in these States. After adjusting subsidy from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the balance cost of operating helicopter services is met by the concerned State Governments.

### **Year-wise details of expenditure/fund released for Helicopter Service in NE States-**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Expenditure/ Fund released (In crores)</b>
1	2005-06	20.00
2	2006-07	17.54
3	2007-08	23.41
4	2008-09	25.00
5	2009-10	34.99
6	2010-11	44.99
7	2011-12	59.18
8	2012-13	25.00
9	2013-14 (Upto 15.10.2013)	24