

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 823**  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015)

**SOCIAL OBLIGATION OF AIRLINES COMPANIES OPERATING IN  
INDIA**

823. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether there is any proposal of Air India (AI) to reserve adequate seats for last minute booking with affordable fares, for persons travelling in medical emergency and persons accompanying a corpse or for the next of kin in case of bereavement in a family, if so, the the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is any proposal of Air India to give concession to financially weak students who are going for higher studies to far off areas of the country and cannot afford the air travel, if so, details thereof; and
- (c) what are the social obligation of airline companies operating in India?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) : No, Sir. At present there is no proposal of Air India to reserve adequate seats for last minute bookings. Seats are highly perishable commodities and lapse as soon as an aircraft has departed. Hence, no such policy for reserving seat for last minute booking can be adopted, as it would lead to revenue loss and seat spoilage which Air India being a commercial entity cannot forego.

(b) : Air India offers 50% discount on the normal Economy class fare on domestic sectors to Students studying in India for travelling between Home Town and Place of Study and vice versa .The concessional fare is 50% of Basic fare of normal economy class fare. Tickets are issued by Air India offices, approved Travel Agents and through Air India website on [www.airindia.in](http://www.airindia.in) .

(c) : To achieving better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need of different regions of the country including North-East (NE) region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Island and Lakshdweep, the Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG). In accordance with these RDG, all Scheduled Airlines who operate on Category-I (Metro) routes are required to deploy 10% of the capacity deployed on Category-I routes, on Category-II routes. Category-II routes are those connecting stations in North East region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. The operator are also required to deploy at least 50% in Category-III (small cities) of the capacity deployed in Category I route. This promotes regional and remote areas connectivity.

At the time of natural calamities, airlines have stepped forward and provided assistance in the form of evacuation of stranded persons and transport of relief material to the affected persons/areas. Recently Air India conducted operations to evacuate Indian nationals from Yemen. Also the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has issued CAR- Section 3 - Air Transport, Series 'M' Part I to the airlines to provide assistance/facilities to disabled persons.

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