

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 17
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th July 2022)

HIKE IN FLIGHT CHARGES

17. DR. V. SIVADASAN

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognisance of the recent spike in the flight charges
- (b) whether Government has received any requests for controlling the situation
- (c) the steps taken by Government to bring back the flight charges to normal and
- (d) whether Government has not taken any steps regarding the same, if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) to (d): Airfares are neither established nor regulated by the Government. Under the provision of Sub Rule (1) of Rule 135 of The Aircraft Rules, 1937, every air transport undertaking engaged in scheduled air services is required to establish tariff having regard to all relevant factors, including cost of operation, characteristic of services, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff. Airlines are therefore free to fix reasonable tariffs under the provision of Sub-rule (1) of Rule 135 of Aircraft Rules, 1937. However, due to the unprecedented circumstances prevailing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fare bands with upper and lower limits were introduced by the Government under Section 8B of the Aircraft Act, 1934 as a temporary measure. The fare bands have been revised from time to time in view of substantial hike in price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) in order to keep the aviation sector viable while protecting the interests of the passengers. Fare capping is, presently, applicable on a rolling basis for a 15 days cycle. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) monitors airfares on certain routes selected on random basis to ensure that the airlines do not charge airfares outside the range declared by them.
