

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1613
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th December 2023)

EXORBITANT TICKET PRICING BY AIRLINES

1613. SHRI RAJENDRA GEHLOT

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to take any steps to control exorbitant ticket pricing by airlines operating in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether even after paying exorbitant prices for the tickets, some additional charges have to be paid compulsorily for allotment of seat; and
- (c) whether Government has received complaints in this regard, if so, the details of the complaints received and action taken thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a): As per prevailing regulation, airfares are neither established nor regulated by the Government.

With the repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the process of airfare approval by Government has been dispensed with. Under the provision of Sub Rule (1) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, every air transport undertaking engaged in scheduled air services require 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 free to charge reasonable air fares as per their operation viabilities subject to compliance to above said rule.

(b): No Sir. Airlines are charging only for preferential seats on an 'opt-in' basis in accordance with DGCA Air Transport Circular 01 of 2021, titled "Unbundle of services and fees by scheduled airlines". However, if the passenger doesn't wish to opt for a preferred seat, the passenger will be assigned seat free of cost before departure through Auto-Assigned seat selection mode.

With a view to make basic fare more affordable and provide the consumer an

option of paying for the services which he/she wishes to avail, Government has allowed some of the services to be unbundled and charged separately on 'opt-in' basis which includes preferential seats too.

(c): No substantiating complaint have been received by DGCA.
