

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 823
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11th December 2023)

HIKE IN AIRLINE TICKETS BY AIRLINES

823. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been an unreasonable hike in the price of domestic flights in India;
- (b) the details of base fare that is collected by various airlines in India in all routes for the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) whether it is also a fact there is no limit for a maximum amount that could be collected for a single ticket by an airlines in a route; and
- (d) the measures which have been taken by Government to control the soaring price for tickets in domestic and international flights in India?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) to (d): 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.

The airfares are dynamic in nature and follow the principle of demand & supply. The fares are also dependent on a number of other factors such as the number of seats already sold on a particular flight, prevailing fuel price, the capacity of the aircraft operating on the route, competition on the sector, season, holidays,

festivals, long weekends, events (sports, fairs, contests, etc.) etc.

The lower fare is available for advance booking much earlier. As time lapses and date of journey approaches closer, the fare on higher side is made available as per the respective airline policy.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has setup a Tariff Monitoring Unit (TMU) that monitors airfares on select domestic sectors on random basis by using airlines websites on monthly basis to ensure that the airlines do not charge airfares outside the range declared by them.

As the monitoring is done on variable routes selected on random basis and airlines are mandated to display the airfares on their websites, the data of base fare collected by various airlines in India on all routes for the last five years is not maintained by DGCA.
