

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 668
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 29th July 2024)

DELAYS AND CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS

668. SHRI PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to investigate the frequent delays and cancellations of flights in the country;
- (b) justification that Government has for high prices of flight tickets in the country; and
- (c) whether Government is considering to start civil flights at Hasimara Air Force station in Alipurduar District of West Bengal?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

a) Scheduled flights get sometimes delayed due to various reasons such as weather, technical and operational issues.

In order to reduce inconvenience caused to the passengers as a result of the cancellations/delay of the flights, Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) Section 3 Air Transport Series M part IV titled "Facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding cancellation of flights and delay in flights." DGCA periodically monitors the delay and cancellations of the flights and carries out inspection at various airports in the country on random basis to ensure compliance of laid down regulations. In case any airline is found in violation of the regulations, penal action, including financial penalty, is imposed.

b) The Government does not regulate the fares set by airlines - Indian or foreign. The fares on any route are dependent, inter-alia, on seasonality, holidays and festivals, cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel, competition and other similar factors. Airline pricing runs in multiple levels {buckets or RBDs} which are in line with the practice being followed globally and due to dynamic fare pricing, the tickets bought in advance are much cheaper than those purchased near the travel date. Under the provisions of Rule 135(1) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, the airlines are

free to fix tariffs, having regard to all relevant factors, including cost of operation, characteristics of services, generally prevailing tariff etc. DGCA's Tariff Monitoring Unit (TMU) ensures that the fares being charged by the airlines are as per the tariff established by the airlines.

c) The State Government has been requested by Airports Authority of India to acquire and hand over 37.74 acres of land for development of New Civil Enclave Hasimara for A320 aircraft. The land is yet to be handed over by the State Government.
