

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1451
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9th December 2024
EXORBITANT AIRFARE

1451. SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA

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

(a) whether Government proposes to take steps to moderate exorbitant ticket pricing by airlines in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether prices shown initially and final price at the time of booking the tickets vary as some more charges are added, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether practice of allotting seats only after some more money is charged is being made compulsory, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether web checking is a must now and airlines charge a penalty when a traveller with a valid ticket seeks a boarding pass at the airport, if so, the details thereof

ANSWER

**Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)**

(a) & (b): The airfares have moderated in 2024, relative to 2023. The airfares are not regulated by the Government, allowing airlines the autonomy to establish their pricing based on operational requirements, market dynamics, seasonal fluctuations, and other relevant factors, in accordance with Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. Nevertheless, the Government maintains a vigilant oversight role.

Rule 135 (2) requires airlines to display a single consolidated fare and give its break-up also for consumer's benefit. The airfare components includes basic fare, airline fuel charges, CUTE fees, convenience fee, airport development fees, user development fees, passenger service fees, RCS fees etc. alongwith government levies and the same is displayed on the respective websites of the airlines in compliance with Rule `135.

(c) & (d): Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Air Transport Circular (ATC) 01 of 2024 titled, "Unbundle of Services and fees by scheduled airlines" as per which, some services like preferential seating have been allowed to be unbundled and charged separately from the travellers. Such unbundled services are provided on "opt-in" basis by Airlines and are not mandatory in nature. Web check-in is not mandatory and no penalty is imposed when a traveller with a valid ticket seeks a boarding pass at the airport. Further, there is also a provision for auto seat assignment to the passengers who have not selected any seat for web check-in before scheduled departure. Scheduled domestic airlines are not charging any fee for completing web check-in formalities. As far as check-in at Airports is concerned, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has advised all the scheduled airlines not to charge any additional amount for issuing boarding passes at the airport check in counters as the same cannot be considered within 'tariff' as provided under Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.
