

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2572
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24th March 2025

AIRFARES DURING FESTIVE AND HOLIDAY SEASONS

2572. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the airfares are higher during festive and holiday seasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has any scheme to resolve the issue of higher airfare during festive and holidays seasons;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has any scheme to maintain uniformity in air fare throughout the year; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): With continuous engagement with airlines & Online Ticketing Agents (OTAs) and keeping a watch on the movement of airfares by the government, the airfares have moderated in 2024 relative to 2023. The airlines have also been sensitized to ensure reasonability while fixing the airfares and to keep passengers' interest in mind. Notably, during festival seasons, a decrease in airfares was observed in various sectors.

The airlines are mandated to display the Tariff Sheet at a prominent location on the home page of airlines' website. 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.

Airfares are not subject to regulation by the Government and airlines have the flexibility to determine their airfares based on their operational needs, while adhering to Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. While the government generally refrains from regulating airfares to maintain market competitiveness, however, it remains vigilant, and the Government intervenes to shift capacity from one sector to another to prevent exorbitant pricing to ensure passenger comfort and welfare.

The airfares are dynamic in nature and follow the principle of demand & supply. The trends in airfare prices in India exhibit considerable seasonality, 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.

Besides this, the pricing of airfares is significantly influenced by operational constraints at airports. Routes experiencing high tourist demand, are subject to limitations imposed by terrain, weather conditions, and restricted operating hours. The combination of constrained capacity and elevated demand leads to fluctuations in airfares.

Given the complex dynamics of the Indian aviation industry, Government is playing the role of a facilitator by way of creating enabling environment to support the growth of the sector.
