

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2408  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025)**

**IMPROVING AIR TRAVEL ACCESSIBILITY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**

2408. SMT SUDHA MURTY

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

- (a) whether Government is considering measures to make air travel more accessible and affordable for senior citizens, especially those living on pensions or fixed incomes; and
- (b) if so, the details of the proposed policy interventions?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): In order to safeguard the interests of senior citizen passengers, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued CAR Section 3, Series M, Part I regarding "Carriage by Air of Persons with Disability and/or Persons with Reduced Mobility" and Air Transport Circular 2 of 2019 titled "Facilities / Courtesies to esteemed travelling public at airports" which lays down the general requirements for airlines and airports to ensure adequate facilitation of the passengers, particularly senior citizens, passengers with disability etc.

Dedicated "May I Help You" Counters are available at airports for the assistance of Persons with Disability /Senior Citizen/ Persons with Reduced Mobility. Terminal Managers are also regularly sensitised to assist Senior Citizen/Person with Reduced Mobility / Person with Disability.

The Government does not regulate the commercial fares set by airlines. The fares on any route are dependent, inter-alia, on seasonality, holidays and festivals, 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.

However, the Government maintains a vigilant oversight role, intervening in exceptional circumstances, such as during the pandemic, in order to ensure air travel is affordable for passengers. In such instances, the Government may impose temporary fare caps or redistribute capacity across various sectors to mitigate excessive pricing and ensure the comfort and welfare of passengers. Also, respective airlines have their policies for discounts regarding affordable air travel for senior citizens.

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