

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**

Rajya Sabha

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 29

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st July 2025

**IMPACT OF TERRORIST ATTACK IN PAHALGAM ON THE
AIRFARES**

29. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN

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

(a) whether it is a fact that following the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the airlines significantly increased passenger airfares;

(b) the details of airfare between 22nd April and 30th April 2025; and

(c) the details regarding maximum and minimum airfares for the same sectors during March 2024 and April 2025?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): In the aftermath of the incident in the Pahalgam attack, there was an apprehension of a mass exodus of tourists from J&K, which would have, in the normal course, led to a surge in airfares. Accordingly, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued advisories to all airlines and online travel agencies. These directives were designed to guarantee seamless connectivity for passengers traveling from Srinagar to multiple destinations throughout India, to ensure a clear and transparent display of airfares, and to provide assistance to stranded tourists. The Airlines were urged to desist from surge pricing, and for this purpose, airlines were directed to cap airfares for two major sectors, i.e. Srinagar-Delhi (under 10,000), and Srinagar-Mumbai (under 13000). Any airline breaching this cap was to be subjected to regulatory action.

Understanding the challenges faced by many passengers, airlines worked diligently to ease the burden by waiving cancellation and rescheduling fees. Taking proactive action not only the number of flights To/From Srinagar were increased from 51 on 22/04/25 to 56 on 23/04/25, but also the prices were kept in control. As a result of these interventions, a notable reduction in airfares from Srinagar was observed and helped to ensure that the stranded tourists at Srinagar can return home safely. A flight from Srinagar to Delhi, priced over Rs 20,000/- on April 21, came down to a more reasonable fare, falling below Rs 10,000/- by April 24. Further, the Srinagar-Delhi sector is being monitored by the DGCA, and as per the data captured for airfares, offered by airlines for this sector during April 2024 and April 2025, the maximum airfares recorded were 21,949 and 29,054 respectively, while the minimum airfares were 5,210 and 4,854.

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.

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.
