

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1603
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 3rd August 2026

**AIR CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN VISAKHAPATNAM AND ANDAMAN
AND NICOBAR ISLANDS**

1603. SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH

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

(a) whether Government is aware that airfares between Visakhapatnam and Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) are generally very high;

(b) the average airfare on the Visakhapatnam-Port Blair sector during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government has examined the feasibility of operating direct flights with affordable price between Visakhapatnam and Port Blair under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) steps being taken by Government to improve affordable air connectivity between Andhra Pradesh, Visakhapatnam and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): With the repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, airfares are not subject to be regulated by the Government. Airlines have the autonomy to establish airfare based on their operational & economic viability on a particular route while adhering to Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

The pricing of airfares is subject to dynamic fluctuations influenced by the forces of supply and demand. Various determinants such as current seat occupancy, fuel costs, aircraft capacity, seasonal fluctuations and other relevant factors significantly impact airline ticket pricing.

The Government generally refrains from regulating airfares to maintain market competitiveness, however, it retains vigilant oversight role, intervening in exceptional circumstances by redistributing capacity across various sectors and imposing temporary fare caps, such as during the Covid Pandemic, festivals like Maha kumb or other extraordinary instances like Pahalgam incident & the Indigo flight disruptions.

In order to enhance the transparency in airfare, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has set-up Tariff Monitoring Unit (TMU) that monitors airfares on selected 78 routes on a random basis by using airlines websites on monthly basis to ensure that the airlines do not charge airfares outside the range declared by them.

At present, Visakhapatnam-Port Blair sector is not among the 72 domestic sectors currently being monitored by TMU.

UDAN primarily aims to enhance air connectivity to unserved and underserved airports. As per the UDAN scheme provisions, the requested routes are not eligible for bidding under RCS as Port Blair (Vijaya Puram) & Vizag are both served airports and connectivity between two served airports does not fall under the purview of the UDAN Scheme.
