

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1521
(To be answered on the 26th July 2018)**

RESTRICTIONS ON CHECK-IN BAGGAGE

**1521. SHRI PINAKI MISRA
SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether private airlines have restricted the number of pieces of check-in baggage to one weighing 15 Kg or less for economy class passengers, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government would intervene and direct the airlines to revert to the earlier system of restricting the check-in baggage to 15 kg irrespective of number of pieces for the benefit of economy class passengers, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the current status of the directions of the Government in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Government has approved extra luggage charge from air passengers and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) Scheduled domestic airlines put no restriction on the number of the check-in baggage except Jet Airways. Effective 15 July 2018, Jet Airways has restricted the number of pieces of check-in baggage to one, weighing 15 kilograms or less.

(b) to (d): Travel by air is a contractual matter between airline and passenger, which is commercial in nature. However, with a view to make basic fare more affordable, the Government issued Air Transport Circular (ATC) 01 of 2013, wherein the airlines were allowed to unbundle certain services and fees, which were previously included in the airfare. The said circular provided consumer an option of paying for the services which he/she wishes to avail on opt-in basis. These service include:

1. Preferential seating
2. Meal/snack/drink charges (except drinking water)

3. Charges for using airline lounges
4. Check-in baggage charges
5. Sport equipment charges
6. Musical instrument carriage
7. Fee for special declaration of valuable baggage (allow for higher unit on carrier liability)

Hon'ble Delhi High Court in its order dated 16.08.2017 in W.P.(C) 5756/2016 & CM 23726/2016 has stated that DGCA has only been empowered to intervene, if certain regulatory principles are violated. Thus, the power of DGCA is limited to interdict the separate charging of a product, if the regulatory principles such as opt-in, non-discrimination and transparency are violated. In view of the above, the Hon'ble court has stated that DGCA cannot determine the tariff for a specified flight product. Since, they are to be determined by market forces.
