

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1578
(To be answered on the 26th July 2018)**

REGULATION OF AIR FARE

**1578. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN
SHRI M.B. RAJESH
SHRI ANTO ANTONY**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a regulatory authority for controlling and monitoring air fares and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the flight charges are being increased by airlines taking advantage of the vacation seasons and if so, the action taken to regulate the flight charges during the peak season;**
- (c) whether the Government would direct Air India to operate more services and make more seats in the Kerala-Gulf sector in the festival season to provide relief to passengers, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government has imposed conditions for fixing the rate of air tickets, if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) the initiative of the Government to arrange more flight services to the Middle East considering the vacation season there;**
- (f) whether there is any standardized protocol to fix the air fares in the country and if so, the details including its salient features thereof; and**
- (g) if not, whether the Government would consider framing the aforesaid mechanism in this regard and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?**

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

-
- (a) No such proposal is under consideration in this Ministry.**
 - (b) Airfares are not regulated by the Government.**
 - Under the provisions of Sub-Rule(1) of Rule 135, Aircraft Rules 1937, airlines are free to fix reasonable tariff having regard to all the relevant factors, including the cost of operation, characteristics of service, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff.**
 - Airfare so established by the airlines is published on their website under the**

provision of Sub-Rule (2) of Rule 135, Aircraft Rules 1937.

- Airlines remain compliant to the regulatory provisions of Rule 135 as long as the fare charged by them does not exceed the fare established and displayed on their website.

- The domestic airline pricing runs in multiple levels (bucket or RBD) which are in line with the practice followed globally. Usually, the lower levels of the fare in the fare bucket are assigned to advance purchase (popularly known as Appex fares) bookings (eg. upto 90, 60, 30, 14 and 07 days before departure). As the time lapses and the date of journey approaches closer (from 07 days to date of departure), the fare available is on higher side of fare bucket.

(c) In the existing schedule, Air India operates following flights from Kerala to Gulf / Middle East :

Kochi

Kochi-Riyadh-Kochi	: 02 flights per week
Delhi-Kochi-Dubai	: 07 flights per week
Dubai-Kochi	: 07 flights per week
Kochi-Jeddah-Kochi	: 04 flights per week

Thiruvananthapuram

Thiruvananthapuram-Riyadh-Thiruvananthapuram	: 02 flights per week
Chennai- Thiruvananthapuram-Sharjah & vice versa	: 07 flights per week

Calicut

Calicut-Dubai-Calicut	: 07 flights per week
Calicut-Sharjah-Calicut	: 07 flights per week

Air India plans to maintain same schedule and is unable to add capacity on Kerala-Gulf / Middle East route in near future due to non availability of resources.

(d) & (e) No such proposal is under consideration in this Ministry.

(f) & (g) As replied in para (b) above.
