

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 975**

TO BE ANSWERED ON FEBRUARY 8, 2019/MAGHA 19, 1940 (SAKA)

**Regarding "Use of Indian Currencies in International Flight"**

**975: DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA, M.P.**

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- a) whether the RBI guidelines constrain purchase of meals and merchandise by Indian flyer in Indian Currency on international flights of Indian Airlines, private as well as Air India, if so, the details thereof if so, the benefits or advantages for the Indian investors therefrom;
- b) whether a private airlines has recently not accepted Indian currencies for meals etc. on an international flight, if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether his Ministry has received any request from the private airlines to relax this condition so that the Indian flyers can purchase meals, etc. on international flights using Indian currencies, if so, the details thereof;
- d) whether his Ministry is likely to relax this condition for the conveniences of Indian flyers; and
- e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
(SHRI. PON.RADHAKRISHNAN)**

(a): Airlines are free to accept Indian Rupees (INR) from a passenger towards goods and services offered on-board, subject to and within the provision of Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Currency) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014, Notification No 309/2014-RB dated June 4, 2014.

(b): Madam, no specific complaint has been received by Director General of Civil Aviation in this regard

(c) to (e): Reserve Bank of India has received an application from Indigo Airlines to effect in-flight sales in INR on its International flight and thereby seeking the following approvals:

- (i) to export currency notes upto INR 150, 000 to enable them to provide the change to passengers making purchases on board in INR on its International flights; and
- (ii) to import without any limit, currency notes in INR that are collected from the passengers making in-flight purchases in INR on its international flights

Appropriate decision on the matter will be taken by Reserve Bank of India following the due process.

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