

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 9
(To be answered on the 20th July 2023)**

EXORBITANT AIR TICKET PRICE

9. **MS. RAMYA HARIDAS**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take steps to moderate exorbitant ticket pricing by airlines in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the prices shown initially and final price at the time of booking the tickets vary as some more charges are added and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the practice of allotting seats only after some more money is charged is being made compulsory and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the web checking is a must now and airlines charge a penalty when a traveller with a valid ticket seeks a boarding pass at the airport and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) Airfares are neither established nor regulated by the Government. Under the provisions of Sub Rule (1) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, every air transport undertaking engaged in scheduled air services is required to establish tariff having regard to all relevant factors including cost of operation, characteristic of services, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff.

(b) Rule 135(2) requires airlines to display a single consolidated fare and give its break-up also for consumer's benefit. The airfare components includes basic fare, airline fuel charges, CUTE fees, convenience fee, airport development fees, user development fees, passenger service fees, RCS fees etc. alongwith government levies and the same is displayed on the respective websites of the airlines in compliance with Rule 135.

(c) & (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Air Transport Circular (ATC)-01 of 2021 titled, "Unbundle of Services and fees by scheduled airlines" as per which, some services like preferential seating have been allowed to be unbundled and charged separately from the travellers. Such unbundled services are provided on "opt-in" basis by Airlines and are not mandatory in nature. There is also a provision for auto seat assignment to the passengers who have not selected any seat for web check-in before scheduled departure. Scheduled domestic airlines are not charging any fee for completing web check-in formalities. As far as check-in at Airports is concerned, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has advised all the scheduled airlines not to charge any additional amount for issuing boarding passes at the airport check in counters as the same cannot be considered within 'tariff' as provided under Rule 135 of The Aircraft

Rules, 1937.
