

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 246
(To be answered on the 3rd February 2022)**

VARIANCE IN COSTS OF RT-PCR TESTS AT AIRPORTS

246. **SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is aware of a significant variance in the cost of Rapid Antigen/RT-PCR tests charged by the privately managed international airports and State-run airports in the country leading to an increased charge for passengers arriving from international destinations and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has issued any instructions to rationalize the charges for the said tests at all airports in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of charges levied for the said tests at various airports in the country along with the details of vendors engaged for the purpose in each international airports;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to issue guidelines for the privately managed airports to consider foregoing their revenue share which is collected from such tests; and
- (e) 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) to (e): Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in coordination with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is implementing the COVID-19 related guidelines for international passengers arriving at Indian Airports. To facilitate the movement of passengers, airport operators extend the services of testing facilities at airports through accredited Laboratories.

The rates for RT-PCR / Rapid RT-PCR are mostly decided and notified by the respective State/UT Governments, which are adhered to by the laboratories operating at the airports.

Based on the time taken for COVID test reports, waiting time and requirement of the destination countries, passengers may choose standard RT-PCR or Rapid RT-PCR testing facilities. The charges for Standard RT-PCR is about Rs. 500/-. The charges for Rapid RT-PCR may range from Rs. 1975-3000/-. This variation is due to the different technologies used for obtaining the testing reports.
