

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2587
(To be answered on the 17th March 2022)**

HIGH BASE AIRFARE

**2587. SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA
SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the base airfare has been exorbitantly increased during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
(b) The reasons for charge in the base airfare and the details of change in the number of air travelers? And
(c) Whether the government has taken any step to subsidize airfare for small distance travel, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

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

(a) & (b) No Sir. Under normal circumstances, airfares are neither established nor regulated by the Government. Airlines are therefore free to fix reasonable tariffs under the provision of Sub-rule (1) of Rule 135 of Aircraft Rules, 1937.

However, due to the unprecedented circumstances prevailing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fare bands with upper and lower limits were introduced by the Government under Section 8B of the Aircraft Act, 1934 as a temporary measure. The fare bands have been revised from time to time in view of substantial hike in price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) in order to keep the aviation sector viable while protecting the interests of the passengers. Fare capping is, presently, applicable on a rolling basis for a 15 days cycle. The details of the number of passengers carried by scheduled domestic airlines in the last 3 years is as under:

Year	Passengers carried in lakhs
2019	1447.71
2020	630.11
2021	838.14.

(c) While launching the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) Scheme in 2016,

the Government had capped the Airfare at Rs. 2500 for a distance of 500 km to 600 km per seat under Regional Connectivity routes (equivalent to one-hour flight). The capping is subject to indexation as per the formula specified in the UDAN Scheme. The Scheme offers an opportunity to a person to fly at an affordable price, for which the Government has capped the Airfare for a number of seats whereas incentives are extended to airlines under the RCS scheme.
