

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Lok Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1940
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th July 2022)
INCREASE IN DOMESTIC PASSENGERS

1940. SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the domestic air passengers have increased in the country and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to make the air travel affordable in the country?**

ANSWER

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia)

(a) & (b) During 2019-20, all Indian airports across the country handled 275 million domestic passenger traffic. Due to the adverse effect of COVID-19 on aviation industry worldwide, the domestic passenger traffic in India decreased to 105 million during 2020-21. The details of last five years domestic passenger traffic and corresponding growth rate are attached at Annexure.

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Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and make air travel affordable for the masses. The UDAN scheme envisages providing connectivity to unserved and underserved airports of the country through revival of the existing airstrips and airports. Under the UDAN Scheme, the Government has targeted an indicative airfare at Rs. 2500 for a distance of 500 km to 600 km per RCS seat under Regional Connectivity routes (equivalent to one-hour flight). This airfare is

subject to indexation as per the formula specified in the UDAN Scheme document.;

Airfares are market driven and are neither regulated nor established by the Government. Airlines are free to fix reasonable tariffs taking into consideration all relevant factors which include the cost of operation, characteristics of service and reasonable profit. Airlines, however, remain compliant with the regulatory provisions under Aircraft Rules, 1937 as long as the fare charged by them does not exceed the fare established and displayed on their website.;

The Government, however, as an extraordinary measure during the COVID 19 pandemic and in exercise of special powers conferred under the Aircraft Act, 1934, notified in May 2020, fare bands for economy class tickets for scheduled domestic sector. The Fare capping orders are currently operational on a rolling basis of 15 days cycle.

Annexure

ANNEXURE IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED Q. NO. 1940 FOR ANSWER ON 28.07.2022

Details of last five-year domestic passenger traffic and corresponding growth rate

Financial year	Domestic passengers (in millions)	Percentage growth
2017-18	243	18.3%
2018-19	275	13.1%
2019-20	274	-0.3%
2020-21	105	-61.7%
2021-22	167	58.5%

Source: Airports Authority of India