

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Lok Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2848
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12th December 2024)
INCREASE IN AIRFARE AT AHMEDABAD AIRPORT

2848. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

(a) the manner in which the increased airfare at Ahmedabad Airport, for flights during events like the ICC Cricket World Cup, align with the responsibility of the Government to ensure affordability for the common man;

(b) the manner in which the said hike in airfare would impact the affordability of air travel for the common man, especially those who rely on regular flights rather than charter services at the said airport; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to ensure that such hikes do not disproportionately affect ordinary passengers including those who travel for business or leisure

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) to (c): The airfares are dynamic in nature and follow the principle of demand & supply. The trends in airfare prices in India exhibit considerable seasonality, prevailing fuel price, the capacity of the aircraft operating on the route, competition on the sector, season, holidays, festivals, long weekends, events (sports, fairs, contests) etc. Besides this, the pricing of airfares is significantly influenced by operational constraints at airports. Routes experiencing high tourist demand, are subject to limitations imposed by terrain, weather conditions, and restricted operating hours. The

combination of constrained capacity and elevated demand leads to fluctuations in airfares.;

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Furthermore, with continuous engagement with airlines & monitoring of airfares by the government, the airfares have moderated in 2024 relative to 2023. The airlines have also been sensitized to ensure reasonability while fixing the airfares and to keep passengers' interest in mind. Notably, during festival seasons, a decrease in airfares was observed in various sectors.;

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With the enhancement of capacity by induction of more aircraft fleet, modernization of airports and development of new airports, domestic passenger traffic has increased to 153,674,310 in 2023-24 as compared to 136,028,656 in the year 2022-23. Even in the current financial year 2024-25 as of October, the domestic passenger traffic has reached (93,002,510 surpassing the corresponding figure of 87,995,187 for the fiscal year 2023-24, reflecting an impressive growth of 5.7%.;

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Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has setup a Tariff Monitoring Unit (TMU) that monitors airfares on select domestic sectors on random basis by using airlines' websites on monthly basis to ensure that the airlines do not charge airfares outside the range declared by them.;

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The airlines are mandated to display the Tariff Sheet at a prominent location on the home page of airlines' website

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Airfares are not subject to regulation by the Government and airlines have the flexibility to determine their airfares based on their operational needs, while adhering to Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. While the government generally refrains from regulating airfares to maintain market competitiveness, however, it remains vigilant, and the Government intervenes to shift capacity from one sector to another to prevent exorbitant pricing to ensure passenger comfort and welfare.;

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Given the complex dynamics of the Indian aviation industry, Government is playing the role of a facilitator by way of creating enabling environment to support the growth of the sector.
