FREE TRAVEL FOR CHILDREN UPTO THE AGE OF FIVE YEARS

3397.   SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्री   **be pleased to state:-**

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide air tickets at affordable rate to one crore citizens every year under UDAN scheme and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the airlines charge full-seat fare for children aged two years and above, even though children aged under three years are not capable of sitting on seats and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is against the principles of UDAN scheme and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government proposes to direct all airlines to allow free air travel for children upto five years of age; and
(e) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be done and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री   **(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)**

(a) to (c): Ministry of Civil Aviation launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) on 21-10-2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports for the expansion of air services in small cities and remote areas in the country by making air travel affordable to the masses. The Scheme provides financial incentives to airline operators on regional routes that include: Concessions by the Central Government, State Governments/ Union Territories and airport operators to reduce airline operation costs and also the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to bridge the gap between operational costs and expected revenues on such routes so as to make air travel affordable under the scheme.

The Government has not issued any regulation/ circular/guideline regarding full seat fare for children aged two years and above. Airlines follow

established international practices.

(d) & (e): There is no such proposal.

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