

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 1135
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th February 2026)

REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY IN ODISHA

1135. **SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) the progress in fleet integration and operational readiness including induction of wide-body and narrow-body aircraft and the measures taken to ensure aircraft availability, on-time performance and improved regional connectivity to Odisha including districts serving Kandhamal Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (b) the steps taken by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and airline operators to strengthen aviation safety oversight through audits, inspections, capacity building and digital monitoring during sectoral expansion; and
- (c) the impact of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price trends on airfares and the efforts being made by the Union Government in coordination with the State Governments to rationalise ATF taxation, safeguards against surge in pricing and improvements in grievance redressal to ensure affordable, safe and reliable air travel for passengers from Odisha including aspirational and tribal regions with potential for agri-eco-tourism around Kandhamal?

ANSWER

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

((a) & (b) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has a robust mechanism in place to monitor the induction of aircraft by airlines, On-Time Performance (OTP) and route rationalisation across the nation including Odisha. Further, DGCA has put in place a multi-layered oversight mechanism to ensure that safety standards are strictly complied with by airlines, particularly during phases of rapid expansion in fleet size and operations. All expansion activities, including induction of aircraft, increase in flight operations, route expansion and wet/dry leasing, are subject to prior approval by DGCA after detailed scrutiny of safety preparedness. DGCA conducts periodic and special audits, inspections and surveillance activities covering flight operations, airworthiness, training, safety management systems (SMS) and maintenance practices. DGCA conduct meetings with airline management and key post-holders to review operational performance, safety indicators, and manpower adequacy and compliance status. In case of deficiencies, DGCA takes corrective and enforcement action, including issuance of show cause notices, operational restrictions or suspension of approvals and financial penalty, as necessary.

(c): Airfares are influenced by multiple factors including Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) costs, Value Added Tax levied on ATF by State/UT Governments, market competition, passenger demand and seasonal variations. ATF prices are market-linked and form a significant component of airline operating costs. In a deregulated aviation sector, airfares are determined by airlines based on market forces, in accordance with Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

While the Government does not regulate airfares in normal circumstances to preserve competition, it remains vigilant and intervenes in exceptional situations to prevent unreasonable or opportunistic pricing, including through temporary fare caps or capacity rationalisation, in the interest of passenger welfare.

Further, the AirSewa portal, an initiative by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) enables grievance redressal in a time bound manner and provides a one-stop solution for hassle-free air travel.
