

Increase in passenger fares by domestic airlines

2957. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the passenger fares of all domestic airlines were skyrocketing during the period 12 to 17 November, 2010;
- (b) if so, whether it resulted due to cartel among the domestic airlines; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is planning to take some steps to discipline such airlines and stop the passenger loot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The airfares on domestic sector were on higher side in the week starting from 15th November, 2010 probably due to high demand because of mid week holiday and extended weekend.

(c) Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked the scheduled domestic airlines to ensure the following:—

- Furnish a copy of established tariff, route-wise across its network in various fare categories, in the manner it is offered in the market, to DGCA on every first day of the calendar month. Any significant and noticeable change in the established tariff so filed with DGCA shall be reported to DGCA within 24 hrs. of effecting such changes.
- Maintain all records pertaining to established tariff in its office.
- Publish tariff on their respective websites or daily newspapers.

Although, Government does not regulate the airfares, in view of recent passenger complaints of being charged exorbitantly, at the instance of the Government, DGCA has issued notices to the Airlines for rationalising the fares on the basis of certain known criteria and to bring added transparency in the mechanism of pricing of fares charged to the consumers. The Government would also establish a Civil Aviation Economic Advisory Council to advise DGCA for safeguarding interest of consumers.

Facilities at non-metro airports

2958. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the increasing number of private airlines have strained the existing facilities at most of the non-metro airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to augment the passengers facilities and amenities at non-metro airports besides ensuring timely landings?