

(c) Some of the specific measures in place to contain inflation include: reducing import duties for wheat, onion, pulses and refined edible oils; banning export of edible oils and pulses; imposing stock limits from time to time in the case of select essential commodities; maintaining the Central Issue Price for rice (at Rs 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY) constant since 2002; suspending futures trading in rice, urad and tur; fixing the Minimum Export Price of onion at USD 1150 per MT and allocating 1,95,000 tonnes of rice and 3,27,000 tonnes of wheat for distribution to retail consumers under Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) for the period upto March, 2014. As per Second Quarter Review (October 29, 2013) of the RBI, the monetary policy stance and measures are intended to curb mounting inflationary pressures and manage inflation.

#### **Advertising of new medicines on TV**

†\*80. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the advertisements of new medicines being telecast on television for curing various serious diseases like blood pressure, diabetes, joint pains, heart ailment and asthma are approved and licensed by Competent Drug Authority;

(b) whether advertisements of these medicines without any approval is legally valid; and

(c) whether quacks, without any degree, have the right to treat patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, advertisements of drugs for certain diseases are prohibited. However, there is no general provision requiring approval of the respective licensing authority before the telecast of new medicines on television.

(c) No, Sir.

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#### **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

##### **Decrease in growth of air traffic**

466. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that growth of air traffic has slowed down during the last two financial years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that while domestic air passengers during 2011-12 numbered 121.5 million, the figure fell to 116.3 during 2012-13;

(c) whether it is also a fact that one of the reasons for the decrease in air passengers was high fare charged by the airlines;

(d) if so, whether Government has asked the airlines to keep air fare at an affordable level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
(SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Air fares are not regulated by the Government. Sub-Rule (1) of Rule, 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 states that every air transport undertaking engaged in scheduled air services shall establish tariff having regard to all relevant factors, including the cost of operation, characteristics of service, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff. Therefore, airlines are free to fix reasonable charges/fee.

Scheduled airlines offer different fare buckets for each flight and the airfares offered by the airlines in lower bucket are affordable. The airfare increases with the increase in demand for seat, as the lower fare buckets get sold out fast. Random monitoring of airfare revealed that the airfares are remaining within the fare band made available by the scheduled airline on their respective websites.

#### **Free air tickets to DGCA officials**

467. SHRI ALOK TIWARI :  
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI :  
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officials have been issued 2750 free air tickets between 2009 and 2012 to carry out safety inspection and surveillance job;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 2400 air tickets out of 2750 free tickets have been issued to spouses, kins and assistants of these officials for personal travel;