

- (iv) Airline remains compliant to the regulatory provisions of Rule -135 as long as the fare charged by them does not exceed the fare established and displayed on their website; and
- (v) The domestic airline pricing runs in multiple levels (bucket or RBD) which are in line with the practice followed globally. Usually, the lower levels of the fare in the fare bucket are assigned to advance purchase (popularly known as Appex Fares) bookings (e.g. up to 90, 60, 30, 14 and 7 days before departure). As time lapses and date of journey approaches closer (from 7 days to date of departure), the fare in higher side of fare bucket are available for purchase.
- (b) No such analysis has been carried out by the Government.

(c) to (e) In order to prevent excessive charging and sudden surges in airfares and to promote transparency by scheduled domestic airlines, DGCA has issued Air transport Circular 02 of 2010 wherein airlines are required to display on their respective websites the tariff sheet route-wise across their network in various fare categories and the manner it is offered in the market. The intention behind the above directions is to keep the passengers informed of pricing pattern of airlines. DGCA has also set up a Tariff Monitoring Unit in 2010 that monitors airfares on certain routes selected on random basis to ensure that the airlines do not charge airfares outside the range declared by them. The analysis has shown that the airfares remained well within the fare bucket uploaded by the airlines on the respective websites.

Restoration of air services from Visakhapatnam airport

942. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any action for restoration of the services at the Visakhapatnam airport which got damaged due to Hudhud cyclone in October, 2014;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantity of loss occurred due to the Hudhud cyclone; and
- (d) the details of the steps being taken for the safety of the airport and its infrastructure in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Airport (Civil Enclave) at Visakhapatnam has been damaged by the recent Hudhud cyclone causing an estimated loss of ₹45 crores.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has restored all aircraft operations by 17.10.2014, *i.e.*, within 5 days by providing temporary make-shift arrangements like covered sheds/ tarpaulin for passenger movement, isolation of work zones from passenger movement areas for ensuring passenger safety, etc.

(d) In order to ensure safety of the airport and its infrastructure, AAI has taken steps for installation of seamless type double layer roofing arrangements and new structural glazing to withstand higher wind velocity upto 250 km/hr.

Wheel chairs for ailing air passengers

943. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the sick passengers travelling by air to produce medical certificate to avail wheel chairs at airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps being taken to mitigate such inconvenience?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) As per Para 4.1.26 of Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), Section -3 Air Transport, Series M, Part-I for "Carriage by Air of persons with Reduced Mobility", Passengers with disability or reduced mobility are required to inform airlines at the time of booking of air ticket about their requirements for assistance. However, separate requirement to produce medical certificate, for availing wheel chair facility by sick passenger, have not been specified in the CAR, and hence it is not mandatory.

(c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation has issued Air Transport Circular 1 of 2014 on Facilities/Courtesies to esteemed travelling public at airports. The Circular mandates the provision of automated buggies free of charge for all senior citizens, expectant mothers and disabled passengers in the terminal building to facilitate their access to boarding gates located beyond reasonable walking distances at all airports having annual aircraft movement of 50,000 or more. This facility may be extended to other needy passengers on demand basis free of charge.

Disinvestment of Air India

944. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any plans to disinvest the national carrier Air India (AI);