

SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes. Ayurveda literature has mentioned medicinal properties of cow's urine. It is also used for fortification of medicines and purification of herbal and mineral ingredients used in the preparation of Ayurvedic medicines.

(b) A study titled "Evaluation of the immuno-modulatory activity and safety/toxicity of Panchagavya Ghrit" has been conducted by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) under the Ministry of AYUSH. Cow's urine is one of the ingredients of Panchagavya Ghrit, which is found to be safe, non-toxic and effective immuno-stimulant.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has conducted basic research on cow's urine and secured the intellectual property generated through following patents.

- (i) Use of cow's urine distillate as bio-enhancer of anti-infective and anticancer agents.
- (ii) Pharmaceutical composition containing cow's urine distillate as an antioxidant.

(c) National seminar on 'Panchagavya Chikitsa' has been organized by the Central Council for Research on Ayurvedic Sciences on 28 and 29th August, 2014 in which experts and delegates from various organizations including AYUSH Research Councils, National Institutes, CSIR, ICMR, IIT, ICAR, voluntary organizations participated.

Guidelines to airline operators for uniform airfare

3317. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the fact that the private airline operators including Air India increase air fare irrationally especially during festivals and other occasions;

(b) if so, whether Government has formulated any rule for uniform air fare or issued any guidelines to airline operators in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been receiving information on excessive fares charged by airlines at times.

(b) and (c) Air fares are not regulated by the Government. Under the provision of Sub Rule (1) of Rule 135, Aircraft Rules 1937, airlines are free to fix reasonable tariff having regard to all relevant factors, including the cost of operation, characteristics of service, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff. Air fare so established by the airlines is published on their respective website under the provision of Sub Rule (2) of Rule 135, Aircraft Rules 1937.

The domestic airline pricing runs in multiple levels (bucket or Reservation Booking Designator (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 07 days before departure). As time lapses and date of journey approaches closer (from 07 days to date of departure), the fare in higher side of fare bucket are available for purchase.

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.

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 website 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.

Recommendation of National Commission for Scheduled Castes

3318. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India had complied with the recommendations made by National Commission for Scheduled Castes *vide* its order dated 1st July, 2008 for undertaking hearing on 4th June, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes