

period of exclusivity for CGD networks as per regulations in a transparent manner and formulates necessary regulations while protecting the consumer interest and the same has been initiated. This is to promote the competitions among the entities by providing third party access to gas distribution network on non-discriminatory basis.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Exorbitant hike in air ticket

2721. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noticed the exorbitant hike on air ticket fare by various companies resulting in public protest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any petitions regarding the air fare from pravasi organisations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) to (d) As per Regulation, air fare is neither regulated nor established by the Government. Airlines are free to fix the reasonable tariff under the provision of Sub-Rule (1) of Rule 135, Aircraft Rules 1937 having regard to all relevant factors including the cost of operation, characteristics of service, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff. As per prevailing regulation, all scheduled domestic airlines are required to display route-wise and category-wise fares on their respective websites. The airlines remain compliant to the Sub Rule (2) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, as long as the fare charged by them is in line with fare displayed on their website. With a view to maintain transparency, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) monitors airfares on certain routes selected on random basis to ensure that the airlines do not charge airfares outside the range declared by them. In case, any steep fare hike is observed, Ministry of Civil Aviation/Directorate General of Civil Aviation sensitise the airlines for necessary intervention.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has been receiving complaints on exorbitant rate charged by airlines during the peak season. With this in view, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) monitors airfares on routes selected on random basis to ensure that the airlines do not charge airfares outside the range declared by them. The fare monitoring analysis carried out by DGCA in the recent past has shown that the airfares remained well within the fare bucket uploaded by the airlines on the respective websites.

Expansion of Patna airport

2722. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of flights operate from Patna airport daily;
- (b) whether it is beyond its capacity;
- (c) the number of passengers travel daily from Patna airport;
- (d) whether the runway of Patna airport is inadequate for flights; and
- (e) if so, what is Government's plan to expand the Patna airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): (a) On an average 55 flights depart from Patna Airport daily.

(b) Patna airport has handled a total of 4.06 million passengers during financial year 2018-19. The passenger handling capacity of Patna airport is 2.5 million passengers per annum.

(c) Patna airport handled an average of 10,842 passengers per day in January, 2020.

(d) Because of displacements at both ends of the runway, code 4C aircraft such as A-320/B-737 are operating at Patna Airport with load penalty.

(e) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India has undertaken construction of new Integrated Terminal Building along with other associated infrastructure Patna Airport.