GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
Rajya Sabha
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 3208
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24th March 2021

EXORBITANT AIRFARE DURING PEAK SEASON

3208. SHRI P. WILSON

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government is aware that the private airlines are charging exorbitant rate/fare during the peak season;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether Government has proposes to fix a maximum charge in ticket to each destination in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government has any proposal to reduce the cancelation/reschedule charges in all airlines across the country including foreign trips, if so the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State (IC) in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Hardeep Singh Puri)

(a) to (d): The air fare is neither regulated nor established by the Government and the airlines are free to fix the reasonable tariff under the provision of Aircraft Rules, 1937 having regard to all relevant factors including the cost of operations, characteristic of service, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff. However, with a view to maintain transparency, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has started monitoring of airfares on certain routes selected on random basis to ensure that the airlines do not charge airfares outside the range declared by Airlines on their websites.

Due to the outbreak of COVID 19, scheduled domestic operations were suspended w.e.f. 25.03.2020 which were subsequently resumed in a calibrated manner w.e.f. 25.05.2020 with fare capping (lower and

upper limit on different sector) to ensure that airlines do not charge excessive fare and the journey is performed only for essential purpose. The fare band serves the dual purpose of protecting the interests of the travelers as well as the airlines. This Order dated 21.05.2020 has been extended from time to time spelling out the fare bands and is currently in force up to 31.03.2021 or until further orders.

(e): Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), being a regulator, has issued a Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), Section-3, Series-M, Part-II titled "Refund of airline tickets to passenger of public transport undertakings".

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