

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION**  
**Rajya Sabha**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 2415**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 17th March 2021**  
**INCREASE IN BASE AIRFARE**

**2415. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA**

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

**(a) whether it is fact that the base airfare has exorbitantly increased in last two years;**

**(b) if so, the reasons for change in the base airfare and the details of change in the number of air-travellers;**

**(c) whether Government has taken any step to subsidize airfare for small distance travel;**

**and**

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

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b): Air fares are not being fixed by Government as they are determined by market forces. Airline tariffs take into account all relevant factors, including cost of operation, characteristics of services etc. 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 them. There has been continuous growth in the volume of the passengers and India is the third largest domestic market globally. However, post lockdown, the recommencement has been allowed in a calibrated manner.**

**(c) & (d): Air fares have been deregulated. However, Ministry of Civil Aviation vide Order dated 21.05.2020, on account of pandemic COVID-**

**19, have classified sectors on the basis of approximate duration of flight and prescribed fare band thereof indicating the minimum and maximum fares chargeable by the scheduled domestic airlines from the passengers for journey on a particular sector. This Order dated 21.02.2020 has been extended from time to time spelling out the fare band and is currently in force up to 31.03.2021 or until further orders.**

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