

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1780
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4th August 2021)

INCREASING FARES FOR DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

1780. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN

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

- (a) whether the increase in airfares can further make flights an unaffordable option for the middle class;
- (b) how the Ministry proposes to tackle this issue, the details thereof;
- (c) whether higher fares and lower number of flights are not helping the consumers in any form; and
- (d) what steps the Ministry proposes to take to tackle this problem, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) & (b) The Government does not regulate airfares. Airfares are market driven. Unreasonable increase in airfares can reduce the demand for air travel. At the same time, unreasonable price capping can make an airline financially unviable. During the pandemic the government prescribed fare bands for domestic airlines to ensure that airlines do not charge excessive fares and at the same time maintain the viability of air operations. The fare bands have been revised from time to time in view of the increase in the cost of Aviation Turbine Fuel to make the operations of airlines viable.

(c) & (d) In view of the ongoing pandemic, the domestic sector has been opened up in a calibrated manner along with fare caps which are subject to the COVID 19 situation and passenger demand for air travel. The situation would be reviewed as per the prevailing situation of the pandemic.
