

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1607
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18th December 2023)**

**GROUND HANDLING CHARGES AT AIRPORTS DURING THE
CRICKET WORLD CUP, 2023**

1607. SHRI SAKET GOKHALE

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

- (a) the airports in India that increased their ground handling charges or introduced special ground handling charges during the ICC Men's ODI Cricket World Cup from 5th October, 2023 to 19th November, 2023; and
- (b) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation and/or Airports Authority of India were informed by these airports or their operators of the grounds based on which their ground handling charges were increased or special ground handling charges were introduced during the Cricket World Cup, 2023, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

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

(a) & (b): An independent regulatory body namely, Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) regulates and approves the Tariff Cap for Ground Handling Services provided by Ground Handling Agencies at Major Airports in the country. Further, the actual rates are fixed between the Ground Handling agencies and airline operators on mutually agreed terms. However, the rates are not more than the approved rates as per tariff cap.

Recently, AERA received complaints from some of the Charter Aircraft operators that certain Airport Operators have increased operational charges relating to handling of Charter Flights operated at these airports. Accordingly, AERA, took up the issue with the concerned airport operators for immediate withdrawal of additional charges/making of Non-Aeronautical services (Elite Meet and Greet Services) as a pre-requisite for Charter Aircraft Operations for landing at these airports. Subsequent to AERA's intervention concerned airport operator had withdrawn the additional operational charges related to Chartered Aircraft Operators. The airport operator is refunding these additional charges.
