

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 12
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22nd July 2024)**

AIR FARES TO THE GULF REGION

12. SHRI HARIS BEERAN

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the expatriate labourers working in the Gulf region are being exposed to the extreme air fares charged by the Airline Carriers;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under the Aircraft Act and Rules to have a cap on the air fares so as to benefit these sections of the society; and

(c) whether Government has taken note of the fact that the carriers particularly Air India Express which operates to the Gulf from Kerala is very irregular in their service and cancellations and delays are routine and whether any remedial action is being taken to alleviate the sufferings of the labourers who depend on this service?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): Under the provisions of Rule 135(1) of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, the airlines are free to fix tariffs, having regard to all relevant factors, including cost of operation, characteristics of services, generally prevailing tariff etc. DGCA's Tariff Monitoring Unit (TMU) ensures that the fares being charged by the airlines are as per the tariff established by the airlines.

(c): The cancellation and delay of flights are primarily due to weather, technical, operational and miscellaneous reasons which are beyond the control of airlines. In order to ensure appropriate protection of air travelers in case of flight disruption and in particular, flight cancellation and delays without due notice to the passengers booked on the flight, DGCA has issued Civil aviation Requirement (CAR), Section-3- Air Transport,-Series-M Part-IV on "Facilities to be provided to passengers by airlines due to denied boarding, cancellation of flights and delays in flights.