

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 1460
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 5th August 2024)**

**RULE FOR MODERATING THE EXORBITANT PRICING OF AIR
TICKETS**

1460. SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN

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

- (a) whether Government intends to take steps to moderate exorbitant ticket pricing by airlines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken note that prices shown initially and final price at the time of booking the tickets vary as some more charges are added;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon;
- (e) whether Government is aware that a practice of allotting seats only after some more money is charged is being made compulsory; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) & (b): As per prevailing regulation, airfares are neither established nor regulated by the Government. With the repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the process of airfare approval by Government has been dispensed with. Under the provision of Sub Rule (1) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, every air transport undertaking engaged in scheduled air services require to establish tariff having regard to all relevant factors, including cost of operation, characteristic of services, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff. Sub Rule (2) of Rule 135 mandated every airline shall cause to be published the tariff established by him under Rule 135 (1) in his website.

(c) to (f): Airlines are charging for the preferential seats in accordance with DGCA Air Transport Circular 01 of 2024, titled Unbundle of services and fees by scheduled airlines. Considering the fact that unbundling of services and charges thereto has the potential to make basic fare more affordable and provides the consumer an option of paying for the services which he/she wishes to avail, it was

decided by the Government to allow some of the services to be unbundled and charged separately on opt-in basis which includes preferential seating also.

However, if the passenger doesn't wish to opt for a preferred seat, the seat will be assigned free of cost through auto assigned seat mode by the airline. The boarding pass with the auto-assigned seat will be sent via email to the passenger, few hours prior to the flight departure.
