

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 660  
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025)**

**STEPS TO MAKE AIR TRAVEL UNDER UDAN SCHEME MORE AFFORDABLE**

660. SHRI JAGGESH

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is constantly receiving thousands of complaints about high food and beverage prices at airports;
- (b) whether most of the food items on sale, particularly fresh products that are cooked or reheated at airports food outlets, are generally very highly priced;
- (c) whether Government proposes to open affordable food outlets at all airports across the country;
- (d) whether preference will be given to airports under UDAN schemes to make UDAN scheme made air travel further more affordable; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

- (a): From 01.01.2024, to 31.12.2024, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) received 18 grievances (16 via CPGRAMS and 2 via PGO email) regarding airport food pricing, all of which were suitably responded to.
- (b): The Airports in the country offer a variety of food and beverage options catering to the diverse preferences and demands of passengers. Food items, including tea, snacks, and meals, are available at varied price ranges to accommodate the budgets of different passenger segments.
- (c) to (e): To address the demand for affordable food options, several airports have already taken initiatives to introduce low-cost outlets. For instance, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has introduced the concept of 'Udan Yatri Cafe' at Kolkata Airport as a new initiative to offer affordable meals to passengers. The introduction of 'Udan Yatri Cafe' or similar low-cost outlets at other airports is at the discretion of the respective airport operators. Prices of non-aeronautical activities, including food and beverage services, are determined by airport operators and concessionaires based on market dynamics and commercial considerations, as they are not regulated by the Government. Furthermore, 30% of

the non-aeronautical revenue (including food and beverages) generated by airports is used to cross-subsidize aeronautical charges, leading to lower ticket prices for passengers.

\*\*\*\*\*