

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 123
(To be answered on the 20th July 2023)**

AIR FARES TO MIDDLE-EAST COUNTRIES

123. ADV. A.M. ARIFF

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्री

be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the air fares to the middle-east countries from India has increased manifold in recent times especially during the vacation/festival season and if so, the details thereof and corrective action taken thereon;

(b) whether the Government has held any discussions with the airlines on reducing the air fares during peak seasons and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any representations from the Government of Kerala for getting permission for operating chartered flights at reasonable rates to Gulf countries and if so, the details thereof and the current status thereon; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to bring in a comprehensive legislation aimed at putting a cap on the air fares; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

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

(a) and (b) In the recent past, the Government has received few references regarding airfare from Hon'ble Members of Parliament and from the Government of Kerala.

Engagement with airlines and other stakeholders regarding issues of this sector is an ongoing process. However, the airfare is market driven and is neither regulated nor established by the Government. The airlines are free to fix reasonable tariffs under the provisions of sub-rule (1) of Rule 135 of the

Aircraft Rules, 1937 having regard to all relevant factors, including cost of operation, characteristics of services, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff. The airlines, however, remain compliant with the regulatory provisions under Aircraft Rules, 1937 as long as the fare charged by them does not exceed the fare established and displayed on their website.

(c) In the recent past, the Government has received references including from the Chief Minister of Kerala requesting necessary approvals for charter flights to be operated for transport of non-resident Keralites from Gulf countries to India.

If and when received, charter flights are generally approved under the Inclusive Tour Package (ITP) guidelines. There are no specific requests for operation of charter aircraft on India-Gulf sector pending with this Ministry as of 13.07.2023.

(d) and (e) Presently, there is no such proposal under consideration. With the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994, Indian domestic Aviation was deregulated. Airlines are free to induct capacity with any aircraft type, and free to select whatever markets and network they wish to service and operate with the compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDGs) issued by the Government.
