

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2395
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2009
VARIATION IN AIRFARE
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for large variation in airfare between different sectors viz. Port Blair-Kolkata and Port Blair-Chennai though the journey time is same;
- (b) whether the airfare of these sectors could be fixed at the same rate;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the reasons for huge difference in airfare between Air India and private flight carriers like Kingfisher etc. in sector Port Blair-Kolkata;
- (e) whether the Air India fare could be fixed similar to the sectors Delhi-Kolkata/ Chennai-Kolkata in the Port Blair sector to boost the tourism; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

- (a) to (d) :- The fares are market driven. Keeping the fares at all levels at the same rate may not always be possible. The demand keeps varying from time to time and sector to sector.
- (e) and (f):- Delhi - Kolkata and Chennai-Kolkata are essentially metro sectors. The Competition is high and the demand remains more or less same throughout the year unlike Portblair where the traffic is seasonal. As each route is distinct from the other, keeping the Portblair fares similar to the metro sectors may not always be acceptable commercial interest.