

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3092
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2015
Ticket from Air India
Patil Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has directed other Ministries/Departments to buy tickets from Air India or other airlines directly in order to save agent commission; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI JAYANT SINHA)

(a) & (b) Ministry of Finance has instructed all Ministries and Departments that, where air travel is on Government account i.e. where the cost of air passage is borne by the Government of India, air tickets can be obtained/procured either from Air India/Airlines directly (at booking counters/offices/website) or through three authorised travel agents only; namely M/s Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited, M/s Ashok Travels and Tours Limited and M/s Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation. The mode of purchase of air tickets, either directly from the Airlines or through authorised travel agents, therefore, has to be exercised by the Department/official concerned, as both the modes of purchases of air tickets are valid for settlement of claims. Further that all the three authorised travel agents are Central Public Sector Undertakings and that the Ministries/Departments do not pay any Commission to these authorised travel agents for availing their services in obtaining air tickets.