

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:169

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2014

EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SERVICES OF AIR INDIA

Mani Shri Jose K.

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand the international flight services of Air India from Cochin to the Middle-Eastern countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plans to put a ceiling on airfares of domestic carriers during the festive season; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Dr. Mahesh Sharma)

(a) & (b): Air India currently has no plans to increase flights from Cochin to Middle-East.

(c) & (d): Air fares are not regulated by the Government. It has been provided in Sub-rule (1) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 that every air transport undertaking engaged in scheduled air services shall establish tariff having regard to all relevant factors, including cost of operation, characteristic of services, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff. The airfare so established by the airlines also includes charges for some services rendered by them. Accordingly, airlines are free to fix reasonable charges/fee.

Domestic carriers follow a dynamic pricing system. There are several fare levels with a few seats allocated to each level. When the number of seats booked reaches the limit allocated for a particular fare level, the fare moves to the next level. Thus, the fare for a particular flight at a particular time depends on various factors like booking position on that flight, time to departure date etc. In the peak season, as more people book well in advance, flight gets filled up faster and hence fares move up quicker.

This is a standard practice across the world amongst airlines in general and low cost airlines in particular.