

Regarding regulation of Air fares-laid

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon?ble Minister of Civil Aviation towards the pressing issue of soaring air fare which has severely impacted the ability of our citizens to afford air travel, the Government?s promise under UDAN Scheme to make flying accessible to the common man is failing miserably. Instead of affordable flights, we are witnessing unprecedented fare hikes of 20 to 25 percent with some routes seeing increases as high as 39%. This is unacceptable and contrary to the very essence of the UDAN Scheme.

The drastic reduction of 60% in funding for the UDAN Scheme has rippled its effectiveness. While the Government touts its efforts to enhance regional connectivity, the reality is starkly different. The Common man left stranded unable to afford the high cost of air travel. The Parliamentary committee?s recent report highlights the failure of airlines? self-regulation, leading to abnormal fare increases during peak travel period. The Government?s action in controlling airfares is a betrayal of the trust of the common man. I urge upon the Hon?ble Minister for his intervention to ensure that air travel remains affordable for all. The Parliamentary Panel?s recommendation for route specific fare caps and empowering DGCA to regulate airfares must be implemented.