

Need for establishment of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) development hubs in the country- Laid.

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I bring attention of the Government to concerning trends in airfare increases, India has recorded the second-highest increase in domestic airfares in the Asia-Pacific region, climbing by 43% in the first half of 2024. This alarming surge, compounded by increased aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices and capacity constraints, is making air travel unfeasible for travellers from lower-income strata, hindering connectivity and economic opportunities. While India has made admirable strides in Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) development, including partnerships with CSIR-IIP and Airbus, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has expressed disappointment at the slow growth of SAF production globally. India has the potential to produce 8-10 million tons of SAF annually by 2040, reducing emissions and dependence on imported fuel. Localising initiatives through Make in India by utilising agricultural residue and municipal waste can create jobs, lower airline fuel costs, and make airfares more affordable. I humbly urge the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Petroleum to prioritise the establishment of region-specific SAF production hubs in collaboration with local stakeholders and enhance incentives for small-scale feedstock suppliers to strengthen the supply chain. These measures will expand SAF production and reduce dependency on imports, lower operational costs for airlines, and make air travel more affordable.