

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 4815
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21st August 2025)

INCREASE IN AIRFARE OF DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

4815. SHRI RAMASHANKAR VIDHARTHI RAJBHAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the airfares of domestic flights have increased significantly in recent times and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to regulate the same;
- (b) the changes in the operational status of Air India post-privatisation and the current status of its employees;
- (c) whether the Government is planning to construct any new international or domestic airports in the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh is expected to become fully operational?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION (Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a): Airfares are not subject to regulation by the Government and airlines have the flexibility to determine their airfares based on their operational needs, while adhering to Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

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(b): Post - privatisation, Air India has informed that the airline has taken various steps for enhancing operational efficiency such as fleet upgrades, mergers, addition of new routes, Information Technology (IT) overhauls. It has modernized its workforce through hiring, reshaping contracts, and offering exit options for untenured staff. The employee base is younger, skilled, and better aligned with private-sector performance metrics. Recent policy changes boost retention (e.g., raised retirement ages), while operational disciplines (like restricting business-class travel) reflect a customer-centric shift.

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(c): Government of India (GoI) has formulated a Greenfield Airports (GFA) Policy, 2008 for development of new Greenfield airports in the country. As per policy, GoI has accorded, in-principle approval for construction of 24 new Greenfield airports across the country. Out of these 24 airports, Noida International Airport in Uttar Pradesh is presently under development.

(d): Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh, owned by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), has already been operationalized. However, at present there are no schedule operations at Kushinagar.;

With the repeal of Air Corporation Act in March 1994, the Indian domestic aviation was deregulated.

It is upto the airline operators to introduce air services to / from any airport in the country depending on their operational & commercial viability.
