

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. : 721

(To be answered on the 4th December 2025)

HIKE IN AIR FARE DURING FESTIVAL SEASONS

721. SMT JUNE MALIAH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION **नागर विमानन मंत्री** be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is aware of sharp increase in airfares during festive seasons and emergency periods and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether any cap or algorithmic regulation is being considered and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

नागर विमानन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

(Shri Murlidhar Mohol)

(a) and (b): 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. The pricing of airfares is subject to dynamic fluctuations influenced by the fundamental economic forces of supply and demand. Various determinants such as current seat occupancy, fuel costs, aircraft capacity, seasonal fluctuations and other relevant factors significantly impact airline ticket pricing.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) ensures that the airfare charged by the airlines remain within the boundaries of the established tariff sheets. However, in exceptional circumstances of non-adherence to Sub Rule (2) of Rule 135 of The Aircraft Rules, 1937, necessary direction are issued to all concerned airlines.

While the government generally refrains from regulating airfares to maintain market competitiveness, however, it remains vigilant oversight role, intervening in exceptional circumstances, such as during Pandemic, Maha Kumbh & Pahalgam attack, in order to ensure air travel affordable for passengers.

Further, the Government, proactively engages with scheduled airlines and advises them to augment capacity by deploying additional flights during festival seasons or during events causing surge in demand. In October 2025, to meet high festive demand, airlines responded by augmenting flight capacities by announcing 1750 additional flights across 100 sectors. As a result of capacity increase, a general moderation in fares was observed across most of the sectors. This proactive approach serves to mitigate abrupt price surges that may arise from local events or force majeure conditions.

In order to enhance the transparency in airfare, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has set-up Tariff Monitoring Unit (TMU) that monitors airfares on selected 78 routes on a random basis by using airlines websites on monthly basis to ensure that the airlines do not charge airfares outside the range declared by them, under the provision of sub-rule (2) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. This covers about 27% of the domestic traffic. By doing so, the TMU plays a critical role in maintaining airfare levels within the boundaries of the airlines' prescribed tariffs.
