

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:204
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
CONCESSIONS BY IA
ANANTRAO GUDHE;SURESH KODIKUNNIL

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Airlines(IA) gives concessions in air-fare to citizens above 65 years;
- (b) if so, whether it is proposed to reduce the age limit to 60 years;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether in its meeting held on March 27, 2003 the Board has taken a decision to streamline the concessions provided to senior citizens and students;
- (e) if so, whether IA has decided to impose restrictive conditions such as advance booking of tickets and compulsory purchase of return ticket to be utilised within 14 days of outward journey;
- (f) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented; and
- (g) the reasons prompting this decision?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a),(b)(c),(d),(e),(f) and (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d),(e),(f) and (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 204 FOR 4.8.2003 REGARDING CONCESSIONS BY IA

(a),(b) and (c): In Indian Airlines the eligibility on the criteria of age for senior citizens discount/concession in respect of male and female passengers is 65 and 63 respectively. There is no proposal to reduce the existing age criteria.

(d),(e),(f) and (g): Indian Airlines, at present, is offering a number of discounts to various categories of travelling public which are based on social obligation and are non-promotional in nature. The annual financial impact of these discounts is over Rs.64 crores annually. However, Indian Airlines was not receiving any subsidy or assistance from the Government or any other agency to meet the aforesaid social obligations. Subsequently Indian Airlines had requested the Government to provide subsidy or to allow it to withdraw these concessions.

The entire matter had been reviewed by the Government and it was decided as under :-

(a) All pending and future requests of concessions should be processed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation / Indian Airlines on the basis of reimbursement of subsidy by the Ministry sponsoring the request / concession;

(b) The concessions available to the uniformed services should be continued; and

(c) As regards the remaining categories of concession beneficiaries, the Ministry of Civil Aviation would take a final decision on the recommendations of the Board of Indian Airlines

Accordingly, the concessions on domestic sectors were reviewed by the Board of Indian Airlines in its meeting held on 27.3.2003. The recommendations of the Board, inter-alia include continuation of senior citizen concession and student concession subject to following conditions :-

(1) Senior Citizen Concession:

- i) Concession for Indian national residing in India
- ii) For Round trip & circle trip travel only
- iii) Minimum stay for seven days at destination
- iv) Re-routing not to be permitted
- v) Confirmed ticket to be purchased at least seven days prior to departure

(2) Student Concession – for travel between Home Town and place of study only.

The recommendations of the Board of Indian Airlines were examined by the Government and agreed to keeping in view the severe financial position of Indian Airlines. Accordingly, Indian Airlines has implemented the above modifications w.e.f. 7th July, 2003.