

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CIVIL AVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1011  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003  
INCREASE IN CARGO CHARGES  
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Air India has steeply increased cargo charges for vegetables and fruits export in last two months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Air India Mumbai Division has hiked the charges from Rs.0.65 per kg. to Rs.4.00 per kg;
- (d) if so, whether the Vegetables and Fruits Exporters Association, people`s representative and others have strongly objected to this increase; and
- (e) the remedial measure being taken by Air India and Civil Aviation Ministry in this regard?

**Answer**

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

- (a) :- No, Sir. There has been no increase in cargo freight charges for vegetable and fruits exports in the last two months.
- (b) :- Does not arise.
- (c) :- No, Sir. Rs.0.65 per kg.is the terminal handling charge payable by the shipper at the new APEDA PerishableCentre at Mumbai Cargo Complex; and Rs.4/- per kg.is the handling charge payable by the airlines to Air India.
- (d) :- The Vegetables & Fruits Exporters Association have objected to the passing on of this handling charge of Rs.4/-by some foreign airlines to the shippers.
- (e) :- Air India has appealed to the foreign airlines in a meeting held on 03.10.03 not to pass on the handling charges to the exporters. However, no compulsion is possible, as airlines are allowed to charge freight rates from exporters on the basis of demand and supply, under the open sky policy for cargo.