

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2741
(TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28th March 2022)

SUSPENSION OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

2741. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY

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

- (a) the details of loss incurred by Government due to suspension of both domestic and international flights, during last two years;
- (b) whether any credit guarantee is provided to the air operators through Government, if so, details thereof?
- (c) whether the flights both domestic and international as scheduled prior to March, 2020 would be allowed to be operated from end of March, 2022;
- (d) if so, details thereof;
- (e) whether airfares would be reduced in case of more competition, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether COVID-19 protocol would be followed in the flight operations and for passengers, with details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

(GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD))

(a) & (b): The aviation sector in India has been affected adversely due to severe disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The estimated loss incurred by Airlines and Airports in India in the financial year 2020-21 is approximately Rs. 19,564 crore and Rs. 5,116 crore respectively. The Government has extended the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to the Airlines. The scheme provides for 100% guarantee to member lending institutions in respect of eligible credit facility extended by them to their borrowers in the Civil Aviation (scheduled and non-scheduled airlines, chartered flight operators, air ambulances, airports and ground handling units) sectors subject to the conditions mentioned therein.

(c) to (f): Ministry of Civil Aviation vide Order No. 27/2021 dated 12.10.2021 has restored the scheduled domestic air operations w.e.f. 18th October, 2021 without any capacity restriction. With regard to scheduled international operation, to/from country, DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) has issued Circular dated 08.03.2022 for resumption of scheduled commercial international passenger

services to/from India w.e.f. 27.03.2022 i.e. start of Summer schedule, 2022.

Ministry vide order dated 12.10.2021 has restored the scheduled domestic Air operations w.e.f. 18.10.2021 without any capacity restriction wherein the Airline/Airport operators has been advised to ensure that the Guidelines to contain the spread of Covid are strictly adhered to and Covid appropriate behaviour is strictly enforced by them during travel.

The airfares are not regulated by the Government. Under the provisions of Sub Rule(1) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, every air transport undertaking engaged in scheduled air services is required to establish tariff having regard to all relevant factors, including cost of operation, characteristics of services, reasonable profit and the generally prevailing tariff. Airlines are free to charge reasonable air fares as per their operational viabilities subject to compliance of above said order. The airlines are compliant to the Sub Rule (2) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 as long as fares charged by them is in line with fares displayed on their website.
