

Made On: 03/08/2022

Session No: 257

Subject: Urgent need to make necessary rules to regulate air pricing.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, post Covid-19, the airfares are soaring both in international and domestic routes in such a way that outpaced the inflation rates. The stakeholders in the industry are blaming the reluctance on the part of airline companies in bringing all their idling aircrafts back to service after the peak Covid season, and, the exponential hike in Aviation Turbine Fuel price, as two critical factors behind this unprecedented escalation of airfares in India. There are also allegations of oligopolistic practices on the part of airline companies behind the anomalous sky-high airfares.

The precarious situation of Indian expatriates in post Covid-19 scenario, especially of those from Kerala working in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, is further exacerbated by the unconscionable airfares during this vacation season.? Fares between West Asian cities and Kerala have witnessed a jump of around 300 per cent to 600 per cent. Kerala diaspora in West Asian countries is getting their fingers burnt owing to the soaring airfares.? Many are dropping plans of coming to India during this vacation season. Fresh job aspirants to Middle East are also suffering likewise. It is pertinent to note that the Government used to intervene in the past to operate more flights during peak seasons to reduce the fares.

Hence, the Government should urgently intervene in the matter and regulate the prices.? Necessary rules and regulations should be promulgated to ensure the pricing of air tickets in a fair and reasonable manner, and, for fixing upper ceiling of airfares in all domestic and international air routes.

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