



PRAVASI LEGAL CELL

Empowering People on Legal Front

Ref :-PLC/REP/1136/2023

Dated:-15th June, 2023

To

Shri. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia,
Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation,
Govt. of India.

Sub:- **Representation seeking immediate intervention Ministry of Civil Aviation in view of the exorbitant airfare**

Honourable Minister,

Pravasi Legal Cell (PLC) is a registered NGO working with the objective of empowering people on the legal front for more than a decade. It is a group of retired judges, practicing lawyers, social activists, academicians and public spirited citizens working to empower people with the power of law. For the last ten years it has been striving to provide legal aid to the neediest and voiceless individuals of the society, especially the Indian migrants and emigrants.

The organisation has filed numerous representations and Public Interest Litigation(s) before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, various High Courts and with appropriate governments on multifarious issues which affect the lives of the Indian expatriate community. There were positive interventions of the Hon'ble Apex Court in the PIL(s) filed on issues pertaining to refund of cancelled airline tickets during pandemic, establishment of online RTI portals, repatriation of mortal remains of Indians from abroad etc. to name a few.

Through this representation, the Pravasi Legal Cell wishes to draw your Ministry's attention to the issue of exorbitant airfares on certain sectors. It is pertinent to mention herein that the expat community from the gulf region are the worst sufferers of the menace of exorbitant airfare.

According to the report by the Airports Council International (ACI Asia-Pacific) airfares in India saw the highest surge of 41 % followed by UAE (34%), Singapore (30%) and Australia (23%). It clearly shows that effective and immediate intervention is required from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India to protect the interest of air passengers especially the expat community from gulf who suffers the most.

It is submitted that Courts in India time and again reiterated that capping airfare is a policy matter of the government and hence, judiciary cannot interfere in such matters. Though, the Indian aviation industry and the airfares are deregulated and the prize is fixed by the market forces of demand and supply, passengers are not getting its benefit. Certain sectors especially from Gulf region to southern states are charging exorbitant charges throughout and hence, we



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urge the immediate and effective interference of your Ministry to address the genuine difficulty of large number of people at the earliest.

It is further submitted that PLC had earlier brought the issue of repatriation of mortal remains of Indians from abroad after weighing the dead body and fixing the prize. After the interference of Hon'ble Delhi High Court, the practice of weighing the dead bodies are stopped but still the airlines are charging exorbitantly airfare even for bringing back the mortal remains. It is relevant to mention herein that almost all countries bring back the mortal remains of its citizens who deserves the support of the government free of cost, Government of India has to have a proper policy on it. Through this representation, we hereby humbly request you to issue appropriate direction regarding the repatriation of mortal remains of deserving Indian citizens from abroad free of cost.

We hope and trust that your good self will consider the instant representation in its true letter and spirit and will issue the necessary at the earliest.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely,

Advocate Jose Abraham, AOR, Supreme Court &
President, Pravasi Legal Cell.