

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



**REPORT OF THE
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE
ON**

***“Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Danesh
Kumar and Senator Kamran Murtaza regarding
inflated airfare for flights to Quetta”***

REFERRED BY THE HOUSE ON 15TH JULY, 2025

REPORT 02. OF 2026

PRESENTED BY:

SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MAHMOOD

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT ON THE POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR KAMRAN MURTAZA AND SENATOR DANESH KUMAR REGARDING INFLATED AIRFARE FOR FLIGHTS TO QUETTA REFERRED BY THE HOUSE ON 15TH JULY, 2025

I, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Chairman Standing Committee on Defence, have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Kamran Murtaza and Senator Danesh Kumar regarding inflated airfare for flights to Quetta referred by the House on 15th July, 2025. The Matter was referred to the Standing Committee on Defence for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:

1.	Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Chairperson
2.	Senator Syedaal Khan (Deputy Chairman)	Member
3.	Senator Dr Afnan Ullah Khan	Member
4.	Senator Anwar ul Haq	Member
5.	Senator Farooq Hamid Naek	Member
6.	Senator Saleem Mandviwalla	Member
7.	Senator Abdul Qudoos	Member
8.	Senator Musadik Masood Malik	Member
9.	Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri	Member
10.	Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardhy Taimur	Member
11.	Senator Umer Farooq	Member
12.	Senator Atta-ul-Haq	Member
13.	Senator Rubina Naaz	Member
14.	Senator Mashal Azam	Member

3. The Committee took up the Matter in its meetings held on 06th January, 2026, 3rd June 2026, 8th June, 2026 and the final consideration of the Matter was held on 30th June, 2026 attended by the following Members:

1.	Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood	Chairperson
2.	Senator Atta ul Haq	Member
3.	Senator Dr Afnan Ullah Khan	Member
4.	Senator Danesh Kumar	Mover
5.	Senator Kamran Murtaza	Mover



4. During the course of discussions, the Committee deliberated upon the Matter in detail and sought the views of the Movers, Ministry of Defence and representatives of the private airlines. The summary of the proceedings of the meetings on the subject matter is provided below.

5. The Movers Senator Kamran Murtaza and Senator Danesh Kumar discussed the issue of airline fares on domestic route from Quetta to Islamabad. The discussion focused on the significant fluctuation in airfares and the burden placed on passengers due to dynamic pricing mechanisms adopted by airlines.

6. Mover Senator Kamran Murtaza highlighted that airfare pricing appears highly inconsistent, with substantial differences observed between advance bookings and last-minute purchases. It was noted that tickets booked several days or weeks in advance are available at comparatively lower rates, whereas tickets purchased closer to the departure date can rise significantly, in some cases exceeding PKR 100,000 for a one-way journey. This issue is particularly concerning for passengers traveling under urgent or unavoidable circumstances, including parliamentarians attending official meetings on short notice. The Movers pointed out that Quetta faces unique challenges. Due to security concerns and limitations on road travel, passengers are heavily dependent on air transport, which increases demand and results in higher fares. Concerns were raised regarding the absence of a transparent and standardized pricing formula. He emphasized the need for a clear mechanism that links fares to factors such as distance, operational costs, fuel consumption, and other overheads.

7. Mover Senator Danesh Kumar highlighted the operational and primary socio-economic obligations of airlines under the existing aviation policy. It was noted that, as per policy provisions, Pakistani air carriers are required to allocate a specified portion of their total capacity, measured in Available Seat Kilometers (ASK), to domestic trunk, primary, and socio-economic routes. The Mover emphasized the need for transparency and accountability in the implementation of this policy. The Mover said that he will forward a letter seeking detailed information regarding the extent to which airlines have complied with the stipulated requirement. Specifically, on the percentage of capacity actually allocated by each airline to these routes, and whether any deviations from the policy had occurred. Senator Danesh Kumar also raised concerns regarding the operational reliability of Air Sial, stating that the airline frequently cancels its flights to Quetta on the pretext of adverse weather conditions or low passengers, even in instances



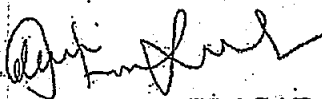
where Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) continues to operate flights on the same route. This issue was highlighted as a matter of concern, particularly in relation to passenger inconvenience and service consistency.

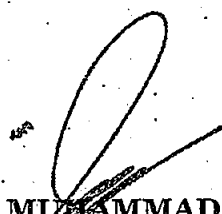
8. The Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of Airblue informed the Committee that the airline is planning to commence flight operations to Quetta by December 2026, following the induction of additional aircraft into its fleet. This development was noted as a positive step towards improving air connectivity to Balochistan.

9. The Minister of Defence explained that the current pricing system operates on market-based principles, where fares are determined by demand and supply dynamics. Pakistan's aviation sector is a competitive market, with multiple private airlines operating on various routes, including Quetta. The concept of inventory management was explained, whereby ticket prices adjust automatically based on seat availability and booking patterns.

10. The Ministry assured that a detailed report regarding the repeated flight cancellations by Air Sial on the Quetta route would be submitted after thorough investigations to the Committee for review. The Ministry also assured that a comprehensive written response would be furnished to the Mover that would include detailed data on airline compliance with the policy of secondary routes, the penalties imposed in cases of non-compliance, and the measures being taken by the authorities to ensure effective enforcement of the policy framework.

11. The Committee, after the detailed discussion, disposed of the matter for submission of report to the House.


ADNAN IBNE ASAD
Secretary Committee


SENATOR MUHAMMAD TALHA MAHMOOD
Chairman Committee