

15th May 2018

Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat

Chief Minister Secretariat

4 Subash Road, Uttarakhand Secretariat, Fourth Floor New Building,

Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248001

Hon'ble Chief Minister Sir,

Sub: Exorbitant Charges being levied by Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority for Charter Helicopters for Landing, Parking and Royalty for Chardham, Dodham Charter

We on behalf of the entire industry are shocked to inform you about the whimsical decision taken by the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority issuing a notice on 12th May 2018 informing about the exorbitant increase for landing, parking and Royalty charges at all helipads in Uttarakhand, which have become effective from yesterday, the 14th May 2018. A copy of letter issued by UCADA Letter no. 118/UCADA/2018-19 dated 12th May is attached.

As per the letter UCADA will be charging 25,000 INR + GST per sector per helicopter used for charter as royalty charges.. Accordingly for Chardham sector, the charges per charter helicopter would be INR 1,00,000+GST towards royalty charges.

Whereas we as tour operators have arranged the packages in advance and sold to the clients on the rates applicable at that time and in no way we can charge the additional amount from our clients. All such agreements between tour operators and clients are signed between 5 to 6 months in advance. Unfortunately we cannot absorb such a heavy amount from our markup also. The resultant effect will be cancellation of groups, involvement of huge cancellation charges and also legal challenges against us from the clients. This will not only give bad name to us but to our country as a destination. Such kind of levies without proper notice are really hurting our business.

This levy should be withdrawn immediately for this season at least as we stand committed to provide services as per agreement signed already. Whatever additional charges are to be levied, should be notified at least 6 months in advance so that the clients are aware of the tax component part and we can include the taxes and other government levies in our packages accordingly.

Purpose of this letter is to request you to kindly intervene in the matter and resolve this in the interest of Indian tourism. Only with your personal intervention, this can be withdrawn.

Hence this SOS letter to you for helping the industry.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Pronab Sarkar

President
IATO