

October 5, 2021



Secretary

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India

AERA Building, Administrative Complex, Safdarjung Airport,  
New Delhi – 110003

Dear Sir,

**Sub: Response to Consultation Paper No. 16/2021-22 dated 07.09.2021, in the matter of determination of Aeronautical Tariff for Chennai International Airport, Chennai for the Third Control Period (01.04.2021 - 31.03.2026).**

We wish to inform you, that no intimation was received by Blue Dart Aviation to attend the Stakeholder's Consultation Meeting scheduled on 21 September 2021 to discuss and present our views related to the above referred consultation paper. We are, therefore, not aware of the discussions during the said meeting. Our response below is based on the consultation paper received by us via email from Mr. Jaimon Skaria, AGM (Finance), AERA on 08 September 2021:

1. We wish to submit to AERA that the prolonged COVID19 pandemic has imposed a period of great distress on airlines. In the current scenario, based on the request by the Airport Operator, the AERA proposal of 42% CAGR increase in the Landing Charges and 55% CAGR increase in parking charges, are completely unacceptable and is not line with the support which is expected from an Airport Operator to protect the Airlines and Airport user community from further decline. Airlines are already severely challenged, with no relief from any quarter and any further increase in charges at this time will do irreparable damage.
2. In view of the current unprecedented situation in the history of the airline industry, we would request AERA to consider maintaining status quo for landing, parking and other aeronautical charges for the next 2 years, and conduct a mid-term review once the situation normalises.



3. The airline fraternity and other airport user community have taken drastic measures to reduce their cost of operations in order to sustain the aviation transportation infrastructure that is so crucial to our economy. As you are aware, when all connectivity was shut down during the various lockdowns in the face of the pandemic, our operations continued relentlessly, despite the risks to our people, to bring in essential materials and save lives. Any exorbitant increase as requested by AAI at this juncture will only negatively impact our critical aviation transportation infrastructure.
4. We look to AAI, as an entity established by the government, to equally share the burden of our current challenges, rather than seek an assured return on investment during these difficult times. We have always co-operated with AAI in the past towards our mutual growth and sustainability. Airlines should be viewed as strategic partners towards progress, and the common interest of all stakeholders should be considered, especially during these exceptional times.

We look forward to your favourable and judicious decision.

Thanking you,

For **Blue Dart Aviation Limited,**



**R. Parameshwaran**

**Chief Financial Officer**

