

(c) and (d) No, Sir. This facility has been provided to accommodate those passengers who have to travel at short notice. A flat refund of 25% of total fare charged on the ticket, excluding Tatkal charges is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal tickets, which are presented for cancellation upto 24 hours before the schedule departure of the train.

The booking under Tatkal scheme is normally done from originating to terminating point of the train with boarding facility from intermediate station. However, zonal railways have been authorised to earmark Tatkal quota at some intermediate stations also keeping in view the traffic pattern and utilisation of end-to-end Tatkal quota. In such cases, the passengers travelling from originating station to any station short of such intermediate station will pay fare upto that intermediate station and not upto terminating station of the train.

(e) The extent of accommodation to be earmarked under Tatkal scheme in different classes has been specified as mentioned in reply to part (a).

Advance booking period

916. SHRI KAMALAKHTAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the advance booking period has been extended to 90 days in the trains;

(b) if so, how much income railways has received during the period till date since its inception;

(c) whether this is exploitation of passengers rather than to help them because the chances for cancellation of tickets is more in this compared to the short booking periods;

(d) whether this act of the Railways is an exploitation of the passengers in two ways holding the money without giving any interest for three months and imposing huge penalty of Rs. 40 and 60 for sleeper and 3 AC coaches respectively per person on cancellation; and

(e) if so, the justification thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):

(a) Advance Reservation Period (ARP) has been enhanced from 60 to 90 days (excluding the date of journey) w.e.f. 01/02/2008.

(b) During the period from 01-02-2008 till 20-02-2008, earnings from sale of reserved tickets through computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) has been approximately Rs. 752.59 crores.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. This is to facilitate passengers to plan their journey well in advance.

Removal of AC coaches from Bareilly-Mughalsarai express

†917. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons due to which two AC coaches have been removed from Bareilly-Mughalsarai (4308) express;

(b) whether there is any proposal for making this train an express train between Lucknow-Mughalsarai;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, by when it would be made the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):
(a) There was only one AC 3-tier coach running in 4308 Bareilly-Mughalsarai Express which has been withdrawn w.e.f. 21.07.2006 due to poor patronization.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to make this train an Express train between Lucknow and Mughalsarai.

(d) The train runs as passenger service for daily passengers between Lucknow-Mughalsarai.

Automatic ticketing machines at stations in Mumbai

918. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 350 automatic ticketing machines installed and operationalised from 1st January, 2008 on Mumbai city's Western and Central railway lines;

(b) whether Mumbai is in the first phase;

(c) whether German and Australian companies have agreed to supply these machines free of cost;

(d) if so, whether railways have agreed to install it in other cities like Delhi and Chennai after its successful operation;

(e) whether by installation, railways would be saving to the tune of Rs.1.5 lakh for the price of the each 350 machines in Mumbai; and

(f) if so, to what extent it has been working successfully in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) So far, 243 Automatic Ticketing Vending Machines have been installed and operationalised on the suburban stations of Mumbai city's Western and Central Railways. Only 300 Automatic Ticketing Vending Machines are sanctioned for Mumbai area.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal from German and Australian companies to supply Automatic Ticketing Vending Machines free of cost. However, 450 Automatic Ticketing Vending Machines are planned for installation in other cities like Delhi and Chennai through Railway funding.

(e) The saving to the Railways does not arise in view of reply to (c) and (d) above as these machines have been procured through Railway Fund.

(f) All the Automatic Ticket Vending Machines functional at Mumbai are working satisfactorily. On an average 36,000 passengers avail this facility daily.

Corruption in awarding railway contracts

919. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: