

(c) the cases of transfer of vendorship of the deceased commission vendors are considered as per policy.

**Easy booking and cancellation of tickets**

2541. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have not yet developed system whereby tickets can be bought and cancelled easily;
- (b) what are the reasons for the Railways insisting on the decades old system of forcing people to go to distant railway stations and then buy tickets, etc.;
- (c) what steps can be taken to ensure that wide-spread ticket kiosks come up to make it easy for the public; and
- (d) the reasons for Railways not taking needed steps to make it easier for the public to use railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) to (d) Improvement in ticketing system is an on going process and Railways have taken following steps in this direction:-

- (i) To enable the passengers to book ticket while sitting at home, reservation on Internet has been started, in which ticket delivery system is available in around 200 cities all over India.
- (ii) E-ticketing system has been started in which the passenger can book their tickets through Internet and occupy seats/berths on the basis of computer generated slip taken out at their own computer.
- (iii) Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centres are being opened at many places for the passengers to purchase reserved tickets near to their place of residence/work. At present, 1303 PRS centres are functioning on Indian Railways.

**New railway time table**

2542. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the railway time able is now being rewritten

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across the 16 railway zones which ultimately helps to reduce the running time of Indian Rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have proposed to increase in the average length of long-haul trains from 14 to 24 coaches, which is expected to boost Railways earnings from passenger traffic;

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) whether Government have taken measures to reduce speed restrictions between several destinations, in the wake of sophisticated technology; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to convert more than 200 mail/express trains to superfast mail/express category by increasing their speeds. Further, the journey time of a majority of the Shatabdis, Rajdhante will reduce and certain mail/express trains is likely to decrease by upto 4 hours.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to increase the number of coaches in about 190 popular passenger carrying trains upto 23-24 coaches.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) (i) Speed restrictions are being reviewed regularly at Officers' level in division as well as Zonal Headquarters.

(ii) To the extent possible, track and bridge renewals/rehabilitation works are planned in such a way that 50 kilometres stretch of track remains free of restrictions in a section.

#### **Deadlock between RCF management and employees**

2543. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the Deadlock between RCF management and employees, which still continues;