

(e) Sanctioned plant of 10.5 MW capacity for Southern Railway is likely to be operational within next two-three years subject to availability of fund. Second plant of 10.5 MW capacity for Jaisalmer has to come up through PPP mode for which necessary action has been initiated.

Manipulations in tatkal bookings

2771. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been report that the tatkal bookings were manipulated in connivance with touts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to remove all loopholes in tatkal bookings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Some cases of misuse of Tatkal booking by unscrupulous elements had been reported.

(c) and (d) With a view to reduce the scope for misuse of Tatkal scheme, the following steps have been taken:—

- (i) Access to Tatkal booking on all days and normal booking on the opening day of reservation through e-tickets by the Travel Agents/Web-service agents/Web Agents of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been disabled between 08.00 a.m. and 09.00 a.m.
- (ii) It has been made mandatory to produce any one of the prescribed identity cards (in original) during the journey by any one of the passengers booked on a Tatkal ticket.
- (iii) Instructions have also been issued that Senior Divisional Commercial Managers/Divisional Commercial Managers should conduct regular inspections of Reservation offices and also personally inspect Passenger Reservation System (PRS) offices during the opening hours and take immediate steps to check the touting activities.

In addition, the following two safeguards already exist in the Tatkal Scheme:—

- Tatkal Refund Rules are stringent to reduce chances of its misuse.
- Change of name facility is not available under the Scheme.