

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of blackmarketeers of railway tickets apprehended during the current year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) No, Sir. However, some cases of touts purchasing tickets in fictitious names and selling the same to other passengers on premium do come to notice.

(b) and (c) The Tatkal Scheme has been revised from 21-11-2011 to prevent misuse and to help genuine passenger. Further, in order to curb the activities of touts and others anti-social elements indulging in blackmarketing of tickets, regular and preventive checks are conducted in and around railway reservation offices. Surveillance and monitoring at reservation offices is stepped up during the peak rush periods. To bridge the gap between demand and supply, new trains and special trains are run and the carrying capacity of the existing trains is augmented. In addition, travelling public are educated through various media to desist from procuring tickets from unauthorized people.

(d) 2369 touts were apprehended during January, 2011 to October, 2011.

Shatabdi train between Delhi and Ludhiana

†1993. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to introduce a Shatabdi train from Delhi to Ludhiana via Meerut-Saharanpur;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal to introduce a Shatabdi train from Delhi to Ludhiana via Meerut-Saharanpur. However, 12037/12038 New Delhi-Ludhiana Shatabdi Express, a daily service, via Sangrur and Rohtak announced in Railway Budget 2011-12 has been introduced from 4th November, 2011. Presently, 5 pairs of mail/express trains are available between Delhi and Ludhiana

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

via Meerut-Saharanpur. Introduction of new train service including Shatabdi train is an ongoing process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc.

Railway link between Ferozpur and Amritsar

1994. SHRI AMINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that general public is demanding a railway link between Ferozepur and Amritsar;
- (b) if so, by when Railways are planning to fulfil the demand; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that by opening this route, the journey to Ferozepur and other adjoining areas would be shortened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) and (b) Ferozepur is already connected to Amritsar through a broad gauge railway line via Jalandhar. On public demand for providing a direct and shorter rail link between these two places, three separate new lines surveys viz. Ferozepur Cantonment -Taran Taran, Khemkaran-Amritsar and Gharyala-Mallanwala Khas have been carried out in the past. However, all the three projects have been shelved because of their unremunerative nature.

- (c) Does not arise as no such project has been sanctioned.

Reservation in promotions in railway posts

1995. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether reservation in promotions is strictly followed and implemented in Railways, as per the provisions made in the Constitution through 77th Amendment;
- (b) if so, the details of promotions made during last three years, in all categories;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the tentative time by which the same would be adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

- (a) Yes, Sir.