

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The expenditure on Passenger Amenities for the last five years and allocation in 2012-13 is as under:

(Rs. in cr)

Year	Expenditure/Outlay
2007-08	668
2008-09	828
2009-10	906
2010-11	911
2011-12 (RE)	762
2012-13 (BE)	1102

The actual expenditure has been increasing from Rs. 668 cr in 2007-08 to Rs. 911 cr in 2010-11. However, in 2011-12 (Revised Estimates) and 2012-13 (Budget Estimates) allocations for Passenger Amenities have been made, keeping within the overall hierarchy of competing requirements.

(c) and (d) The Standing Committee on Railways has expressed concern in paras 26 and 27 of its Fourteenth Report on Demands for Grants (Railways), 2012-13 over downward revision in allotted funds for Passenger Amenities during the course of year.

(e) and (f) The Standing Committee on Railways in its Fourteenth Report on Demands for Grants (Railways), 2012-13 has taken note of the recommendations of the two Committees on safety and modernisation set up by Railways as also the quantum of investment proposed during the 12th Plan period. As per procedure, the Action Taken Notes on the various Recommendations & Observations contained in their Report are submitted to the Standing Committee and the same practice will be followed in respect of the Standing Committee's observations on recommendations of the two committees on Safety and Modernisation of Railways.

Selling online air tickets by IRCTC

4765. SHRI T. M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has decided to sell online air tickets;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that IRCTC has made arrangement with all airlines in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been selling air tickets at its website since 6.5.2010 as a white label arrangement with a backend content provider. However, now IRCTC has launched air ticketing website on its own since 7.5.2012. This initiative has been taken to improve customer satisfaction and provide a seamless passenger movement over various modes of transport. IRCTC has developed in house air ticketing module for booking tickets for domestic and international airlines through website irctc.co.in and railtourismindia.com.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) IRCTC now has directly entered into agreement with the major airlines and the low cost carriers in the country like Air India, Jet Airways, Kingfisher, Spicejet, Indigo and Go Air. Initially, the customer will be able to book tickets for these airlines for domestic travel and later the international airlines for international travel.

Revenue earned through passengers

†4766. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more passengers have travelled in Railways during 2011-12 than in 2010-11;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard and the number thereof in 2011-12 and the increase in number of passengers in comparison to previous year;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that more revenue has been earned as compared to increased number of passengers during the above said years; and
- (d) if so, the quantum of revenue earned?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.