

(a) the action plan with regard to electrification of railway track from Varanasi to Delhi *via* Lucknow and Moradabad as well as plying of long route electric trains thereon;

(b) whether Government has any plan to ply EMU trains between important stations on this route;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan with regard to plying of EMU trains between Lucknow and Bareilly in view of large number of daily passengers commuting to and from Lucknow to various cities between these two stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Electrification work is in progress on Varanasi-Sultanpur-Lucknow-Moradabad section and planned for completion during 2012-13. Electrification of Moradabad-Ghaziabad rail line has been sanctioned recently while Ghaziabad-Delhi section is already electrified.

(b) No, Sir. There is no plan to ply EMU trains for the present.

(c) and (d) Do not arise. There are already 60 pairs of passenger carrying trains running between Lucknow and Bareilly.

Tatkal tickets

4778. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether public resentment has led Railways to bar travel agents from booking tatkal tickets during peak hours on the IRCTC portal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) With a view to protect the interests of ordinary users and to address the complaints of non-availability of confirmed accommodation on the opening day of reservation particularly under Tatkal Scheme, access to Tatkal booking between 0800 hours and 1000 hours by web-service agents and web agents of IRCTC has been blocked.

Condition of train compartments

4779. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1st AC, 2nd AC, 3rd AC and general train compartments in trains running through Odisha are old, not clean and below standard in comparison to the train compartments running in northern region; and

(b) the reasons for such discrimination and whether Railways will consider to use new and clean compartments and also implement strict measures to keep clean and safe compartments and platforms at all stations of Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and North-East region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the coaches (including 1st AC, 2nd AC, 3rd AC and General Class coaches) running in trains through Odisha are within prescribed codal life.

Maintenance and upkeep of coaches is a continual requirement and this is carried out periodically during laid down maintenance schedules. Besides, coaches are also being given mid-life rehabilitation after attaining 12-15 years of life and complete interior furnishing is replaced.

For improving upon the standards of cleanliness and hygiene in coaches (including those of Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and North-East region), schemes like Intensive mechanized cleaning, On Board House-Keeping Services (OBHS) and cleaning attention to trains during their stoppage at "Clean Train Stations" have been launched. Similarly, for stations, Railways have planned multi-pronged action by synergizing technology, education of users and provision of mechanized better equipments.

Appointment in East Coast railway

4780. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that physically handicapped persons who had been selected by Railways in 2009 could not get appointment till date in the name of Vigilance Inquiry in East Coast Railway;

(b) whether there is a time limit for completion of Vigilance Inquiry and by when the inquiry will be completed and the successful physically handicapped candidates will get the employment; and

(c) how many people have got jobs in East Coast Railway without following the usual recruitment procedure, during 2009-2012, the names and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The result of the recruitment process