

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir. RITES was not awarded a study for setting up of the Wagon Factory at Cherthala.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Land availability for setting up the wagon factory at Alappuzha in Joint Venture/Public Private Partnership (JV/PPP) mode is yet to be confirmed by State Government. Further action can only be initiated thereafter.

(d) The work of construction of 2nd Coaching Terminal at Kochuveli is in progress. No target date has been fixed.

Coaching terminal at Nemam is not yet sanctioned.

Whistle-blower policy

1969. SHRI R.C. SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are mulling over introducing whistle-blower policy to discourage misuse of Tatkal reservation and nab touts who sell tickets in black;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether any consultations have been held with the stakeholders in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) With a view to reduce the chances of misuse of Tatkal scheme, the scheme has already been modified on various accounts *e.g.* issuing of Tatkal tickets only on production of self attested photocopy of one of the 9 prescribed proofs of identity mentioned in the scheme and carrying the same proof of identity during the journey, reduction of Advance Reservation Period from two days excluding the day of journey to one day excluding the day of journey, non-granting of any refund on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal ticket, non-issue of Duplicate Tatkal tickets, denying access to Tatkal bookings to authorized agents both through internet as well as across the computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters between 08:00 hrs and 10:00 hrs., restriction of booking of a maximum of four passengers per Passenger Name Record (PNR) on Tatkal ticket and booking of only one Tatkal ticket per train per day on internet after 10:00 A.M. by Web service agents. Improvements/modifications in the reservation system is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) The above said modifications have been done on the basis of feedback received from various sources.

These changes have reduced the chances of misuse of Tatkal scheme.

Issuing of free train passes

1970. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether practice of wasteful expenditure of issuing free train passes by Railway Minister from discretionary quota is an anachronism in a democracy;
- (b) the statistics thereof, the number of passes and the expenses to Railways during last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) whether it is high-time to put an end to this discriminatory practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b)	Period	No. of Passes Issued
	2009-10	26
	2010-11	03
	2011-12 (upto 22/03/2012)	01

Since, these passes are issued on Complimentary basis, details of expenditure on such passes is not maintained.

- (c) As a gesture to recognize their contribution in their respective fields, Life-Time Achievement Passes are issued to different categories of people in the fields of sports, culture, art etc.

Representation from Forum on Social and Human Rights

1971. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the South Central Railway has received a representation from the Forum on Social and Human Rights of Andhra Pradesh to have meeting with the General Manager and others in the State capital to solve the vexatious problem of Tanuku Rail overbridge and the level crossing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a meeting has been held in 2012 in this regard;
- (d) if not, the steps Railways would take to ensure that citizen initiatives are positively viewed and matters taken forward; and