

- (a) whether a recent CAG report has termed Railways' budgeting as faulty;
- (b) if so, the details of the observations made by CAG regarding financial position of Railways; and
- (c) the steps taken by Railways to improve its finances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) C and AG has laid Report No.3 of 2012-13 for fiscal 2010-11 on Railways has suggested certain measures to improve the financial position of the railways and to strengthen the budgetary and monitoring mechanism for better transparency and control. Some of the suggestions are:

- rationalization of both freight and passenger tariffs
- increasing the market share of Railways in bulk commodities
- timely revision/raising of bills and realization of dues including arrears
- exploring alternate sources of finance its capital expenditure
- to focus more on viable projects
- presentation of policy statements and reviews under FRBM Act. etc.

As per procedure such reports are examined by the Ministry and Action Taken Notes are submitted to C&AG.

(c) In order to improve its financial health, Railways are making every effort to augment its earnings and for controlling the expenditure. On the earnings front, in addition to rationalization of the freight and fare rate structure, efforts are being made for achieving a higher growth in volume of passenger traffic through running of special trains, attachment of coaches to accommodate passenger demand. Railways are also exploring avenues of revenue receipts so as to achieve the targeted receipts, which *inter-alia* includes resource generation from land utilization and through advertisements and publicity, early completion of capacity enhancement projects, aggressive marketing strategies to capture additional freight traffic etc. Besides, Railways are making all efforts to contain the expenditure through austerity and economic measures and by better manpower and inventory management, better assets utilization and improved fuel efficiency.

Lack of funds for railway projects

1537. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway projects are not being implemented due to lack of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider to shift this burden towards the freight rates; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Work on all the sanctioned projects have been taken up as per availability of resources. Railways have huge throwforward of ongoing projects. As a result, funds are thinly spread prolonging period of completion. As on 01.04.2012, 347 ongoing projects of new line, gauge conversion & doubling require Rs.1.47 Lakh Crores for completion.

(c) No, Sir. As these projects are primarily funded through Gross Budgetary Support, their expeditious completion is linked to the level of support from the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Misuse of tatkal tickets by agents

1538. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tickets issued under tatkal scheme are misused by agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking against the agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) With a view to reduce the scope for misuse, Tatkal tickets are issued on production of self attested photocopy of one of the prescribed proof of identity and the same in original is required to be carried during the journey, to verify the bonafide of passengers. However, during peak rush periods when the demand outstrips the availability, some cases of black marketing of reserved tickets by touts come to notice at the time of surprise inspections and preventive checks conducted at reservation offices.