

Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System/Anti Collision Device (ACD), etc.

Since most of the fatalities are taking place in the incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings mainly caused due to negligence of road vehicle users, various steps have been taken by the railways to prevent incidents at the unmanned level crossings which include ensuring availability of basic infrastructure at these level crossings, public awareness and publicity campaigns through electronic and print media, mass messaging (SMSs) to educate the road users, joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to penalise the erring road users, progressive manning, provision of subway at technically feasible locations, construction of diversion road upto adjacent manned gates/grade separators (ROB/RUB), closure of such unmanned level crossings which are having negligible rail/road traffic, etc.

Multi-pronged strategy for faster and safer journeys

1695. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways propose to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to provide faster and safer train journeys in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the salient features of the multi-pronged strategy;
- (d) the details of the routes and trains identified for introduction of the strategy; and
- (e) the details of infrastructure likely to be developed for implementation of the said strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) Provision of faster and safer train journeys is a constant endeavour of Ministry of Railways and all requisite steps in this direction like upgradation of tracks and rolling stock, improvements in signaling systems, training and monitoring of loco pilots, induction of modern technologies, including provision of enabling infrastructure are being taken.

Fares for general class passengers

†1696. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that fares for the general class passengers have not been increased for the last many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is formulating any action plan for increasing the fares for general class passengers so that they could be provided with better facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Passenger fares for Second Class Ordinary (both suburban and non-suburban) as well as second class Mail/Express have not been increased since 2002-03.

(c) and (d) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of the fare structure is an ongoing process. Such exercises are yet exploratory in nature and do not constitute a systemic proposal for revision of fares.

Suggestions by MPs

1697. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details along with names of MPs whose suggestions were received during the last two years in Traffic/Commercial Department on the issue of catering stalls, book stalls, Curio miscellaneous article stalls and PCO/STD booths etc.;

(b) the final reply given on each suggestion and the details of the pending suggestions, if any;

(c) the details of Parliament assurances on the subject given during the aforesaid period and the details of their fulfilment; and

(d) the details of assurances still pending on each subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Details of references received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MPs) regarding suggestion made by them on the policy matters pertains to Catering policy 2010, Book stall policy 2004, Curio/Miscellaneous Article stall policy, 2007 and PCO/STD booths, 2000 etc are as under: