

**Increase in train fares**

303. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced to increase train fares before the next railway budget;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to improve train services and amenities;

(c) the reasons and rationale for increase in the train fares during mid of the financial year;

(d) whether Government is aware that common people, who are already facing the acute price rise of essential commodities, will have to bear extra financial burden; and

(e) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of the fare and freight structures is an on-going process. Such exercises are yet exploratory in nature and do not constitute a systemic proposal for revision of fares.

**Scarcity of train tickets during festive season**

304. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that during the current festive season of Dussehra, Durga Puja and Deepawali, general public from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal do not have access to reserved tickets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether touts have become active once again during the current festive season and have created fictitious scarcity of train tickets;