

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of action Government would take to increase availability of berths to general public during the current festive season and thereafter and bridge the gap between demand and supply of reserved tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The demand for reserved accommodation on Indian Railways is not uniform and varies from time to time. During peak rush period/days such as Durga Puja, Deepawali, Winter and Summer vacations etc. especially on well patronized sectors and in popular trains, the demand for reserved accommodation for various destinations including those located in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, exceeds the availability. Therefore, during peak periods, the available accommodation gets booked within short duration of opening of reservation. However, during non-peak periods and in relatively less popular trains, the accommodation is available for relatively longer period.

(c) and (d) During peak rush periods/festival seasons, when demand outstrips supply, some cases of cornering/black marketing of railway tickets by unscrupulous elements/touts come to notice at the time of surprise inspections and preventive checks conducted at reservation offices.

(e) To bridge the gap between demand and supply and to ensure increased availability of accommodation to passengers, composition of existing trains has been augmented (subject to operational constraints) and a large number of special trains including unreserved trains have been run to cater to the demand during the current festive season.

Starting Bhopal-New Delhi Shatabdi Express from Habibganj

†305. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether social organisations and people's representatives of Bhopal have requested the Ministry and the Railway Board to run Bhopal-New Delhi Shatabdi Express from Habibganj; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is considering the same and by when this would be implemented?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard. The same have been examined but not found feasible for implementation, at present, due to operational constraints.

Upgradation/beautification of railway stations in Goa

306. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the railway stations in Goa are proposed to be upgraded or beautified;

(b) if so, the name of the stations;

(c) the name of the scheme under which the upgradation/beautification project is proposed to be undertaken; and

(d) by when the project is going to be completed?

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

(b) Madgaon and Vasco-Da-Gama.

(c) and (d) Development/upgradation of stations is continuous process. Madgaon railway station has been developed under 'Model' station scheme. Further, the work of improvements/repairs to existing approach road to this station and circulating area has been completed recently. Vasco-da-gama station has already been developed under 'Adarsh', 'Model' and 'Modern' station schemes. In addition, a work of improvement to circulating area and other amenities has been sanctioned and planned for completion by November, 2013.

Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

307. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in the implementation of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor;

(b) the total quantity of load expected to be carried through the freight corridor;