

Stations developed as Adarsh Stations in State of Bihar (19)

Abhaipur, Anugraha Narayan Road, Arariya, Arariya Court, Bihar Sharif, Chhapra Jn., Forbesganj, Jamalpur, Jehanabad, Jogbani, Madhubani, Naugachia, Patna Saheb, Rafiganj, Sasaram Jn., Simraha, Sitamarhi, Sultanganj and Thakurganj.

Stations developed as Model Stations in State of Bihar (43)

Ara Jn., Arariya Court, Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barauni Jn., Barh, Bariarpur, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Biharsharif, Buxar, Chhapra Jn., Danapur, Darbhanga Jn., Dehri-on-Sone, Gaya Jn., Hajipur Jn., Harishchandrapur, Jamalpur, Jamui, Janakpur Road, Jhajha, Katihar, Khagaria Jn., Kiul Jn., Madhubani, Mokama, Motihari, Muzaffarpur Jn., Nalanda, Nawadah, Patna Jn., Patna Sahib Jn., Phulwarisarif, Purnea Jn., Rajendra Nagar(T), Rauxaul Jn., Saharsa Jn., Samastipur Jn., Sheikhpura, Sitamarhi, Siwan Jn., Sonepur, and Sultanganj.

No station has been developed as world class station in the last 3 years.

In Bihar, Patna and Gaya stations are identified for development as world class stations by leveraging real estate potential of land around and air space above railway stations in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Consultancy work for preparation of Master Plan and feasibility Report for development of Patna as world class station have been undertaken. In regard to Gaya, preliminary studies have been undertaken.

Failure of E-ticket booking transactions

2154.DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 30-40 lakh railway e-ticket booking transactions fail every month on IRCTC's e-ticketing facility but money is debited through consumers' bank accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last six months along with the reasons for failure of such a large number of transactions;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps for technological upgradation of IT infrastructure of e-ticketing system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the further steps taken by Government to enhance the e-ticket booking capacity of IRCTC website?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the period from August, 2012 to January, 2013, while 7.32 crore tickets were booked successfully through the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) website, in 53.92 lakh cases, payment was settled but tickets were not booked. The reasons for such cases include network failure, non-availability of chosen lower berth/compact accommodation, etc.

(c) and (d) Following steps have been taken to enhance the existing IT (Information Technology) infrastructure of IRCTC:

- (i) Internet bandwidth has been increased to 450 mbps recently.
- (ii) High capacity data base servers have been installed. This will help in faster through put and response.
- (iii) Additional Software licenses, application and web servers have been procured.
- (iv) Mobile Application and mobile website booking have been launched.
- (v) Continuous co-ordination is made by IRCTC with various banks regarding payment gateway to reduce failed cases.

Hike in passenger fares

2155. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether passenger fares were recently hiked across all classes;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has ignored to explore other options of internal revenue generation, including steps like monetisation of idle railway land, etc.;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Passenger fares had not witnessed any increase since 2002-03; in fact, fares in several segments of passenger services,