

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Preliminary activities for gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Botad taken up. Botad-Bhavnagar section converted and commissioned.

(b) Not fixed.

(c) Preliminary activities for doubling of Viramgam-Samakhiyali taken up. Viramgam-Sadla (14 km) is targeted for completion in 2013-14. Target for completion of remaining section has not been fixed. A double line exists between Samakhiyali-Gandhidham.

(d) Not fixed except as mentioned above.

#### **Increase in fares for passenger trains**

2927. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have recently increased the fares for train passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much Railways are expecting to garner through the above hike during the current year;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the present proposed hike is much higher than the earlier one proposed last year;

(e) if so, the comparative chart between the hike proposed earlier and the present hike; and

(f) the justification for the hike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The revision in Passenger Fares that has been implemented with effect from 22.01.2013 is as follows:

Sl. No.	Class	Increase in Fare (in paisa per PKM)
1	2	3
1	Second Class Ordinary (Suburban)	2 Paise
2	Second Class Ordinary (Non-Suburban)	3 Paise

1	2	3
3	Second Class (Mail / Express)	4 Paise
4	Sleeper Class	6 Paise
5	AC Chair Car	10 Paise
6	AC 3-Tier	10 Paise
7	First Class	3 Paise
8	AC 2-Tier	6 Paise
9	AC First Class	10 Paise

(c) It is estimated that additional revenues amounting to approximately Rs. 6600 crores would be getting generated over a period of one year.

(d) and (e) A comparative chart showing the revision proposed originally in Railway Budget 2012-13 and the revision implemented with effect from 22.01.2013 is given below:

Sl. No.	Class	Increase in Fare (in paise per PKM)	
		Proposed in the Budget 2012-13	Implemented w.e.f. 22.01.2013
i.	Second Class Ordinary (Suburban)	2 Paise	2 Paise
ii.	Second Class Ordinary (Non-Suburban)	2 Paise	3 Paise
iii.	Second Class (Mail/Express)	3 Paise	4 Paise
iv.	Sleeper Class	5 Paise	6 Paise
v.	AC Chair Car	10 Paise	10 Paise
vi.	AC 3-Tier	10 Paise	10 Paise
vii.	First Class *	10 Paise*	3 Paise
viii.	AC2-Tier *	15 Paise*	6 Paise
ix.	AC First Class *	30 Paise *	10 Paise

Note: \* Fares of First Class, AC-2 Tier and AC First were revised upwards by 10 paise per Km, 15 paise per km and 30 paise per km, respectively, w.e.f. 01.04.2012. Regarding other classes, the proposed increase were not implemented.

As is evident from the foregoing Table, the increase in passenger fares implemented with effect from 22.01.2013 is not significantly higher than what was originally proposed in Budget 2012-13, particularly in respect of the lower classes of travel.

(f) Passenger fares had not witnessed any increase since 2002-03; in fact, fares in several segments of passenger services, including Second Class, were revised downwards in subsequent years. A correction had become imperative from the view point of redressing the un-viability that had consequently got manifested in the fare structure and, also, generating resources that are critically required for funding initiatives in thrust areas, viz. modernization and safety.

**Stoppage of trains at Ghaziabad railway station**

2928. SHRI SHADILAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the difficulties being faced by the daily commuters of NCR region particularly Ghaziabad;

(b) if so, the details and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has received any representation from MPs etc. regarding providing stoppage of Saptkranti Express, Shiv Ganga Express and Magadh Express at Ghaziabad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to allow stoppage of these trains at Ghaziabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) Representations have been received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament for provision of stoppages of Mail/Express trains at Ghaziabad. The matter has been examined and stoppages of Mail/Express trains including 12557/12558 Muzaffarpur-Anand Vihar (T) Sapt Kranti Express, 12559/12560 Varanasi-New Delhi Shiv Ganga Express and 12401/12402 Islampur-New Delhi Magadh Express at Ghaziabad have been found neither operationally feasible nor commercially justified.