

i-tickets including waitlist i-tickets. which are tickets in the physical form, is already available. Such waitlisted i-tickets are not cancelled either before or after chart preparation without the request of the passenger. The Hon'ble Court has given six months time to Indian Railways for responding to the above order.

(c) The following measures have been taken to curb blocking of seats by touts by making bogus reservation:

- Carrying of prescribed original Identity Proof has been made compulsory for one of the passengers while undertaking journey in reserved class. Ticket checking staff have also been asked to be more vigilant and conduct proper/thorough checks of prescribed ID proofs of passengers undertaking journey in reserved coaches.
- Surveillance at reservation offices has also been stepped up by installing Close Circuit Television at important Passenger Reservation System (PRS) locations to keep watch on any possible toutting activities.
- Joint as well as independent checks are conducted by Commercial, Vigilance and Security Departments to curb the activities of touts. These checks are supplemented by checks on the train to detect the cases of transferred reserved tickets.
- General public are also educated through Public Address System and media, not to buy tickets from touts/unscrupulous elements and consequences of buying tickets from these sources.

Confirmation of waitlisted tickets

3358. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the highest number of waitlisted train tickets are for trains going to Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that most of the recommendations of Members of Parliament for confirmation of waitlisted tickets are ignored;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that a racket is operating in confirmation of train tickets; and

(f) if so, the action being taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The average occupancy of all reserved trains operated by Indian Railways is more than 100%. There is unsatisfied demand on some routes which is reflected in the waiting lists of popular trains including some of those bound for Bihar. The demand for reserved accommodation exceeds availability during peak periods such as festivals, summer holidays, winter holidays, etc.

(c) and (d) In order to meet the urgent travel requirements of High Official Requisition (HOR) holders (which include Central Government Ministers, judges of Supreme Court of India, High Courts of various States, *etc.*), Members of Parliament and others, a limited number of berths/seats have been earmarked as emergency quota in different trains and in different classes. The quota is released by the staff in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long. At the time of allotment of berths/seats, emergency quota is first allotted for self travel of HOR holders/Members of Parliament, *etc.*, strictly as per their *inter-se* seniority in warrant of precedence. Thereafter, other requisitions received from various quarters including that from Members of Parliament are considered and the remaining quota is released taking into account various factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, job interview, *etc.* While requests for other than self travel, forwarded by MPs are generally complied with, sometimes, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests when the demand exceeds the availability.

(e) and (f) No racket in confirmation of Railways tickets has been detected. However, few isolated cases of individual irregularities have come to notice. The Railway employees found indulging in irregularities have been taken up under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules and in other cases, action has been initiated as per provisions of Railways Act, 1989.

Dip in passenger revenue in April-May, 2014

3359. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have found that in the peak season of April-May this year, the fall in number of passengers was nearly 18 million compared to the same season last year;

(b) whether taking a cue of this strange dip in passengers revenue, Railways