

(c) The reasons for the marginal decline in passenger traffic in 2013-14 include change in Advance Reservation Period (ARP) from 120 days to 60 days, impact of fare rationalization, changed norms/regulations in the issue of concessional tickets particularly in case of Izzat MSTs, closure of certain sections etc.

### **Stressed loco pilot**

1514. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that harsh punishment for stressed loco pilots is forcing them to take their own lives;
- (b) the number of loco pilots and assistant pilots who committed suicides during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to provide weekly/calendar day rest schedules for loco pilots and putting a cap on continuous night duty cycles for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) In case of every accident, a high level enquiry is conducted. In such enquiry, if a Loco Pilot is found to have violated laid down rules, which resulted/contributed to the accident, then disciplinary action is initiated and after getting representation from charged Loco Pilot and a detailed enquiry, as applicable, punishment is imposed, in accordance with the laid down norms and keeping in view the circumstances of the case.

(b) During the last three years, only one case of suicide by an Assistant Loco Pilot has come to notice.

(c) Weekly/calendar day rest to loco pilots on the Railways is regulated in accordance with Section 133 of the Railways Act, 1989. As per extant instructions, performance of continuous night duty by loco pilots should not normally exceed six nights at a stretch. Due to round the clock operation in Railways, it is not feasible to avoid night duty. Monitoring of duty, rest hours and continuous night duty cycle is being ensured by Zonal Railways as per laid down rules and regulations. Further, progressive implementation of computerized Crew Management System (CMS) for better monitoring of duty, rest hours and continuous night duty cycle of running staff is also being ensured.

### **Automatic ticket checking and fare collection system**

1515. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: