

(c) The reasons for decline in passenger traffic during the current Financial Year include impact of fare rationalization, changed norms/regulations in the issue of concessional tickets, particularly in case of Izzat MSTs, closure of certain sections for gauge conversion, impact of natural disasters like floods and heavy monsoons, various other regional factors, etc.

The demand for freight loading on Indian Railways is a derived demand and is dependent on the growth in the economy, especially in the core sector since Railways is primarily a bulk carrier of freight. The Index of eight core sector industries for April-October 2014 shows a growth of 4.3% as against this the growth in freight loading has been higher at 4.79%. The slow growth rate in the originating freight loading of Indian Railways was primarily on account of relatively slow growth in core sectors of economy. This was further compounded by negative growth in Iron ore after mining restrictions were imposed in the States of Karnataka and Odisha and quantum drop in demands for exports and negative growth in loading of Fertilizer due to less demand.

#### **Ticket booking and reservation counter at Trayambakeshwar**

†2305. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken or approval granted for setting up a ticket booking and reservation counter at Trayambakeshwar to facilitate train reservation and booking of tickets for the pilgrims and tourists expected to arrive in Kumbha Mela at Nasik in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to existing Passenger Reservation counters, additional counters will be operated at Nasik road and Trayambakeshwar during the upcoming Kumbha Mela in Nasik, Maharashtra.

#### **Wages provided by contractors deployed by IRCTC**

2306. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some contractors being deployed by IRCTC are denying to pay equal wage for equal work; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has not received any cases regarding denial of equal wage for equal work.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Establishment of wagon factory in Odisha**

2307. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when the Ministry will establish a wagon factory at the identified patch of land in village Sitapalli of Ganjam district and another wagon factory at Narla in Kalahandi district in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): On account of slow growth in freight traffic *vis-a-vis* the capacity for manufacture already available, work on the project of setting up a wagon manufacturing factory at Sitapalli of Ganjam district has not started.

There is no proposal, at present, to set up another wagon factory at Narla in Kalahandi district.

#### **Revision in time-table of trains**

†2308. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the schedule and procedure for revision in the time-table of trains for convenience of passengers; and

(b) the measures taken to ensure early arrival of Bandra-Amritsar (Deluxe/Western Express) at Delhi and early departure of Indore-Hazrat Nizamuddin-Indore (Intercity Express) from Hazrat Nizamuddin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Timings of trains on Indian Railways are dependent, *inter alia*, on factors like nature of service, availability of path and availability of terminal/ maintenance facilities. Indian Railways, to the extent feasible and subject to operational feasibility, endeavours to schedule trains to timings convenient to the passengers at originating/terminating stations. Every year, Indian Railways, subsequent to the announcements made in Railway Budget and after finalizing routes/timings of new trains services/extensions/increase in

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.