

Fuel adjustment component in passenger fare

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

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce variable Fuel Adjustment Component (FAC) in passenger fare;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with percentage component of FAC in passenger fare; and

(c) the time by which the Rail Tariff Authority is likely to be constituted in order to take an independent call at fixed intervals on increasing passenger fare and freight charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) As announced in the Railway Budget 2013-14, Fare and Freight revision linked to fuel cost are being done twice a year, in sync with movement in fuel cost, in either direction.

(b) So far, revision in passenger fares has been carried out two times. The first revision was done in October 2013 wherein passenger fares were revised by 2 percent. The last revision was done in June 2014 wherein passenger fares were revised by 4.2 per cent.

(c) Government has already approved setting up of Rail Tariff Authority (RTA) which will advise the Ministry of Railways on all matters related to fixation of tariffs. A Government Resolution dated 27.01.2014 to this effect was issued.

On 22.09.2014, Ministry of Railways has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Bibek Debroy which will, *inter-alia*, examine and suggest modalities of implementing the existing Cabinet decision on setting up a Rail Tariff Authority and give recommendation, within one year.

Deaths of elephants and other wild animals

597. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deaths of elephants and other wild animals under running trains/ rail tracks has been mounting up in the country, if so, the details thereof; and