

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) During 2014-15, a total of 33,53,78,119 reserved tickets were booked, out of which 15,39,42,718 were booked across Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters and 18,14,35,401 were booked through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

(c) to (e) The cost per e-ticket issued through IRCTC is ₹ 7.22 based on figures for the financial year 2013-14. However, it is practically not feasible to establish the cost of issuing a ticket through the PRS counter since it involves various factors such as cost of premises & equipment and their maintenance, manpower cost, and other costs such as electricity, furniture, stationery, networking etc., which vary from location to location.

#### **Recommendation of Railway Safety Review Committee**

1501. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Safety Review Committee, that is the Khanna Committee (1998), had recommended to exclude supervisors from trade union activities for safety aspect;

(b) if so, whether it was accepted by Railways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee had recommended that supervisors should not be allowed to join the unions. They should be permitted to form their own association to represent their interests and grievances.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Under the present Trade Union Act, it was not possible to accept the recommendation as it had legal implications and would have required modification in the Trade Union Act.

#### **Concierge services at Secunderabad and Tirupati Railway stations**

1502. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the response of passengers to Railways' concierge services introduced at Secunderabad and Tirupati stations;

(b) the criteria adopted for offering this service;

- (c) the basis for the selection of above stations; and
- (d) whether Railways plan to extend the said service to more stations, including Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Vizag?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) to (c) The concierge services (cab services only) at Secunderabad and Tirupati stations was launched by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) recently, as pilot projects. Till 29.04.2015, there has been no booking at Secunderabad and Tirupati stations. The detailed criteria/policy is being framed by IRCTC. Based on tourism importance, two A-1 category stations have been selected to begin with as pilot projects.

(d) Concierge services (only cab services) have already been started as pilot projects at 22 railway stations. These stations are Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Ernakulam Jn., Guwahati, Howrah, Jaipur, Lucknow, Lucknow Jn., Madurai, Mumbai Central, Mumbai CST, Mysore, Anand Vihar Terminal, Delhi, Delhi Cantt., Delhi Safdarjung, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Patna, Secunderabad and Tirupati.

**Usage of Pension Funds for investment in infrastructure development of Railways**

1503. SHRI PANKAJ BORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways are using Pension Funds for investments in the infrastructural development;
- (b) if so, the details of investments made during the last two years therefor; and
- (c) the details of Government proposal to participate in the GDP of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) An investment of ₹ 8.5 lakh crore is envisaged in the next five years in Railways aimed at increasing traffic throughput and reducing unit cost of transportation which will contribute to economic growth.

**Setting up of cold storage facilities**

1504. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to set up more cold storage