

Touts in railway reservation system

1428. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that during summer season of the current year, touts had once again become very active in railway reservation system;
- (b) if so, the details of touts arrested during last three months;
- (c) whether touts are also controlling the HOR quota in connivance with railway officials, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of action Government would take to free railway ticket reservation from touts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Indian Railways takes measures to ensure that common man's access to the railway ticketing system is not affected. Some cases of touting activities come to notice during checks conducted by Railways, particularly during peak rush period/festival seasons.

(b) 772 touts were prosecuted and 135 convicted during last three months *i.e.* April, May and June, 2015.

(c) No case of involvement of Railway officials in allotment of HOR Quota has come to notice of Railway Board Vigilance.

(d) To facilitate travel for the passengers during peak rush period and to ensure availability of train tickets to 'Common Man', regular and preventive checks against touting activities are conducted. This is an ongoing continuous process. Other steps taken by Railways in this regard are as follows:

- Surveillance at reservation offices has been stepped up by installing Close Circuit Television at important Passenger Reservation System locations, to keep watch on any possible touting activities. Booking pattern at reservation offices are also monitored for detecting unusual pattern and fraudulent working of touts.
- 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 proofs of identity of passengers undertaking journey in reserved coaches

- Touting activities occur due to gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodations. To meet the additional demand of reserved accommodation, especially during festivals and peak rush periods, special trains are run, carrying capacity of existing trains is augmented depending upon the pattern of traffic, operational feasibility and availability of resources.
- 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.
- To curb malpractices by railway staff in connivance with touts, checks are conducted in booking offices, reservation offices, trains etc. Stringent action is taken against the railway staff under Disciplinary and Appeal Rules, if found indulging in malpractices.

Proposal for Rajdhani and Duronto Express trains

†1429. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from North Eastern Railway regarding operation of Rajdhani and Duronto Express trains from Delhi to Guwahati *via* Lucknow and Gorakhpur; and

(b) if so, the date, when the proposal was received and the details of action taken thereon, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) Representations are received from various quarters at various levels of Railway Administration for introduction of trains including Rajdhani and Duronto Express trains, and action as found feasible and justified is taken from time to time. A detailed compendium of such data is not maintained. To cater to Delhi-Lucknow-Guwahati sector, 12503/12504 Kamakhya-New Delhi Premium AC Express *via* Lucknow has been announced in Railway Budget 2014-15. This is in addition to the existing 8 pairs of Express trains connecting New Delhi and Guwahati, which include 2 pairs of Rajdhani Express trains *via* Lucknow. At present, there is no proposal for introduction of a new train from Delhi to Guwahati *via* Lucknow, Gorakhpur. However, introduction of trains including Rajdhani and Duronto Express trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.