

- 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.