

Hike in train fares

768. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether train fares have been hiked two times during the year 2014-15, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the action plan/steps being taken by Government to provide better facilities to passengers and for the betterment of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. In the financial year 2014-15, fare revision has been effected only once with effect from 25th June 2014.

(b) Upgradation of amenities/facilities at all stations is a continuous and on-going process. The same is undertaken based on the volume of passenger traffic, relative importance of the work/amenities and availability of funds. Presently, development of stations is undertaken from funds allocated for passenger amenities by the concerned zonal railways on a regular basis. In addition, out of total of 1195 stations identified for development under the 'Adarsh Station Scheme', facilities at 961 stations have already been upgraded.

Further, as a part of continual improvement in improving passenger amenities in trains, the following actions have been taken by Indian Railways:

- (1) Provision of cushioned seats/berths in general Second Class coaches, snack table and magazine bags in Sleeper Class coaches, automatic fire and smoke detection system (so far in 3 rakes), Braille signage in coaches to facilitate visually impaired passengers, improved design of dustbins and washing of linens in mechanized laundries.
- (2) Induction of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches in Mail & Express rakes and High Capacity LHB Airconditioned Chair Car coaches on select routes.

Railway line in Kangra Valley

769. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the narrow gauge railway line in Kangra Valley is in a bad shape;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and