

Curbing cheating in railway recruitment board examinations

†684. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating to check cheating in examination of Railway Recruitment Board subsequent to certain cases of cheating having surfaced in the said examination;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action in this regard till now; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) To curb the attempts of cheating and other malpractices, review of the system of Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) examinations is carried out at regular intervals. In last such review which was followed by a technical audit of the system of examinations by RRBs, necessary changes in the system of printing, transportation, storage and distribution of question papers for examinations were made to make the system foolproof. Recently, as a step towards enhancing the objectivity, transparency, security, integrity and credibility of RRB exams further, pilot project of Computer Based Test (CBT)/Online Examination have been initiated. Advertisements are also published in newspapers to warn people to beware of malpractices.

Stray cases of cheating, whenever reported, are referred to Investigation Agencies like Special Task Force (STF), Local Police etc. Necessary changes in the system of RRB examination and action against candidates indulging in cheating is taken on the basis of reports received from the investigation agency(ies).

Reduction in Tatkal Quota

685. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to reduce the Tatkal booking quota to benefit the common man and increase the normal booking quota because there are many reported cases of its misuse; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Although Zonal Railways can earmark a maximum of 30% of available accommodation as Tatkal, yet Tatkal Quota like all other reservation quotas

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

is reviewed on a periodical basis so as to earmark it based on realistic demand pattern, by reducing it if required. In 2015-16, approximately 18.20% of the total accommodation has been earmarked as Tatkal Quota (including Premium Tatkal). Moreover, adequate safeguards have been built in the scheme and various steps have been taken to avoid misuse of the Tatkal Scheme, some of which are as under:

- (i) No refund is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal ticket.
- (ii) The facility of change of name is not permitted on the booking made under Tatkal Scheme.
- (iii) The timings of opening of booking under Tatkal Scheme on the opening day of reservation have been staggered to 1000 hours and 1100 hours on the previous day of journey from train originating station for AC and non-AC classes respectively.
- (iv) Authorised ticketing agents have been restricted from booking Tatkal Tickets during the first thirty minutes of opening of Tatkal booking *i.e.* from 1000 hours to 1030 hours and from 1100 hours to 1130 hours.
- (v) Web service agents have been permitted to book only one Tatkal Ticket per train per day.
- (vi) Maximum four passengers per PNR are permitted for Tatkal Tickets. Individuals are allowed only 2 Tatkal Tickets per IP Address from 1000 hours to 1200 hours and maximum number of tickets allowed to an individual user is limited to 6 per month.
- (vii) CCTVs are installed at important PRS locations to monitor the activity of touts. Regular inspections/drives are conducted to unearth activity of malpractice.

Separate budget for railways

686. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to abolish separate budget for Railways;
- (b) whether any expert body has made such recommendation;
- (c) which body Committee has made the recommendation and what are the grounds given therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry agrees with the recommendation; and
- (e) whether Government has examined the proposal, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (e) The NITI Aayog Committee headed by Shri Bibek Debroy has