

(b) Flexi Fare System has been introduced in all Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi trains w.e.f. 09.09.2016.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Special trains to clear festive rush

2053. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to run 2900 special trains during festive season rush when passengers struggle to get their berths confirmed;

(b) whether around 10 lakh people fail to travel on a daily basis due to non-availability of tickets, 13 per cent of whom are long distance travellers; and

(c) whether Railways have more than 1200 sections that are high density and connect metros, of which around 500 sections are running at a capacity of over 100 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. To meet the current year's festival rush coinciding with Durga Puja, Diwali, Chhath, etc., Indian Railways ran more than 3000 special train trips from different parts of the country.

(b) On Indian Railways, demand pattern varies during peak and lean periods. During peak periods, the demand outstrips the availability. During this period, lean periods and on non-popular routes, confirmed accommodation is available for longer duration in most of the trains. During the Financial Year 2016-17 (upto October) the daily average number of reserved passengers booked and those who remained on waiting list after preparation of reservation chart were 14.38 lakh and 1.16 lakh respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir. There are 1206 sections on Indian Railways out of which 262 sections are on High Density routes. 472 sections on Indian Railways have exceeded 100% capacity.

Crowd in trains during festive season

†2054. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not been able to chalk out a concrete plan to deal with huge crowd in trains during festive season;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) if not, the efforts made so far in this regard in view of crowd in trains during festive season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) In order to meet the surge in passenger traffic in trains, Indian Railways runs special trains and also augments capacity on the existing scheduled services during peak seasons, festivals season, special events keeping in view the pattern of traffic, operational feasibility and availability of resources. This is an ongoing process on various sectors.

Also introduction of new train services on the basis of demand pattern in various parts of the country is an ongoing process.

Preventing incidents of derailments

2055. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have launched a safety drive to prevent incidents of derailments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether suitable follow-up action on all deficiencies and irregularities, noticed during the drive, has been taken by all the zonal railways, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) any other steps taken recently to enhance safety and preventing railway accidents, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At the behest of Railway Board, in 2016, two safety drives on derailment were launched by Zonal Railways viz. for a period of 10 days in May, 2016 and for a period of 15 days in September, 2016. These were in addition to safety drives being launched by Zonal Railways at the Headquarter and Divisional level from time to time.

(b) During the drives, a large number of inspections were carried out by the Railways covering various aspects such as maintenance of track, prevention of rail fractures, weld failures, zero missing fittings particularly at curves and approaches to bridges, clearing of backlog in Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) inspection, maintenance of running lines, loop lines, inspections of points and crossings etc.