

(c) whether railway's loss is increasing in countless ways despite all efforts to increase its income; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Railways are facing heavy pressure to hike passenger and freight fare to compensate the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. Surge pricing is not applicable in railway passenger fares as in surge pricing the fares increase with demand during peak demand period. The fares on Indian Railways remain constant throughout the year. However, flexi pricing has been introduced in Rajdhani, Durgam and Shatabdi type of trains.

(b) The details regarding number of trains and seats/berths on which flexi fare scheme has been applied and the number of seats/berths that remained vacant at the time of charting, excluding the berths which get allotted by TTEs on train for which data is not compiled, are as under:-

Total number of Rajdhani, Durgam and Shatabdi trains	Total number of seats/ berths for the period from 09.09.2016 to 15.11.2016	No. of seats/berths which remained vacant <i>w.e.f.</i> 09.09.2016 to 15.11.2016
148	5687421	895462

(c) Surpluses generated before appropriation to Development Fund, Capital Fund and Debt Service Fund during the years 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-2016 are ₹ 3740.40 crore, ₹ 7664.94 crore and ₹ 10505.977 crore, respectively. The Railways have been incurring losses due to its tariff policy which has traditionally been one of the restraint with regard to increase in passenger fares and moderation in case of periodic increases in freight rates. Conventionally, the losses incurred in passenger and other coaching services have been compensated through a process of 'cross-subsidization' from revenues generated in the freight segment.

(d) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalisation of Passenger Fare and Freight structure is an on-going process.

Safety category vacancies in Railways

2059. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 1.2 lakh vacancies in safety category are lying vacant in different zones of Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more than 8400 vacancies are alone in South Central Railway (SCR);

(c) if so, how Railways are managing with safety of railways with such huge vacancies;

(d) the probability of incidents/accidents on account of such huge vacancies in safety category; and

(e) the efforts being made by Railways to fill up the above vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) As on 01.04.2016, there is 122763 number of vacancies in safety category on Zonal Railways out of which 8422 posts were vacant in South Central Railway.

(c) Safety in train operations, which is accorded highest priority, is ensured through appropriate manpower planning and its utilization.

(d) Safety parameters for train operations have shown continuous improvement over the years and there is no compromise on this. Accidents per million train kilometres have reduced from 01.11 in 2014-15 to 0.10 in 2015-16.

(e) Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and the same is filled by timely placement of indents with recruitment agencies as per operational requirements. Some of the vacancies are likely to remain unfilled at a particular period of time.

Installation of bio-toilets

2060. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway routes or trains in the country that have been installed with bio-toilets;

(b) whether Government will make Railways discharge-free by 2019, as claimed; and

(c) if so, the details of the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Three Railway routes/sections viz. Rameswaram - Manamadurai (114 Kms), Okha - Kanalus Junction (141 Kms), Porbandar - Wansjaliya (34 Kms) have been commissioned as 'Green Corridors' i.e. no human waste from trains gets discharged on tracks over these sections as all trains running over these routes/sections have all the coaches fitted with bio-toilets. Further, at present, there are more than 900