

(c) the logic behind having FTQ in sleeper class and not in higher classes of certain trains; and

(d) whether such quota in all classes of above said trains would be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Foreign Tourist Quota of 2 berths in 2AC and 4 berths in Sleeper Class in 22417 Varanasi Junction-New Delhi Mahamana Express and 4 berths in Sleeper class in 22418 New Delhi-Varanasi Junction Mahamana Express has been earmarked, whose utilisation is between 25% and 37% respectively. On the other hand, utilisation of general accommodation in these trains is more than 100%. In 22419/22420 Anand Vihar Terminal- Ghazipur City Suhaildev Express, no Foreign Tourist Quota has been earmarked. Further, earmarking of all types of reservation quota including Foreign Tourist Quota is done by Zonal Railways based on demand pattern and availability of accommodation. These quotas are reviewed on periodical basis keeping in view the utilisation and adjustments made wherever required. It is a continuous and ongoing exercise.

Halts of Shatabdi trains

†2831. DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shatabdi trains are taking more time to reach their destinations because of halts at various small stations; and

(b) whether Government is contemplating to increase the speed of Shatabdi trains or to run alternative trains so as to reach destinations on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Stoppages on experimental basis for a certain period of time are provided in trains including Shatabdi Express trains without affecting the originating/terminating time of the trains. These are reviewed periodically, with a view to optimizing efficiency in operations, which is an on-going exercise on Indian Railways.

(b) Speeding up of trains including Shatabdi Express trains is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches and better tracks.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.