

Dynamic ticket pricing

433. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dynamic ticket pricing, introduced in Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains, has made them totally out of reach of common masses, if so, the rationale behind such a move; and

(b) how much extra revenue generation has been reported after the introduction of dynamic ticket pricing in these trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There has been substantial increase in the operating cost of the Railways over the past few years. Rajdhani/Duronto/Shatabdi trains are highly prestigious trains with better facilities in train service, speed and punctuality of trains, etc. and highly popular and preferred over other trains on the route. Therefore, Flexi Fare System for Rajdhani/Duronto and Shatabdi trains has been introduced *w.e.f.* 09.09.2016. There is no change in the fare structure of normal Mail/Express and Passenger trains.

(b) Additional earnings during 09.09.2016 to 31.10.2016 due to introduction of Flexi Fare System in Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi trains are approximately ₹ 56 crores.

Container trains

434. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering container trains for export and import cargo;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to have time-table for container trains;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there have been demands to improve the services and reduce the tariffs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways is already running container trains for export and import cargo.

(b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways has introduced time-tabled container trains (Cargo Express) from 15.06.2016 and time-tabled automobile trains from 12.07.2016.

(c) Yes, Sir. There are periodic demands for improvement in services and for reduction of tariffs.