

Ministry of Railways. These trials were meant for the limited purpose of assessing the savings in transit time and not for certifying the maximum permissible speed of Talgo coaches or introduction of this rolling stock.

(c) and (d) CRSs of Northern, West Central and Western Circle have written to the Zonal Railways on this matter. Zonal Railways have clarified the position.

Allotment of side berths while making advance booking

457. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only side berths are allotted to passengers of 2nd AC coaches when they reserve their tickets in advance, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that lower berths at mainside of AC coaches are allotted only to those who book under Tatkal scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Reserved accommodation is booked by computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) automatically on first come first served basis subject to availability of berth.

New Delhi-Chennai bullet train

458. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the present status of the Bullet train project announced between New Delhi and Chennai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): New Delhi-Chennai corridor is one of the High Speed Corridors identified under Diamond Quadrilateral network. Feasibility study for Delhi-Nagpur portion of Delhi-Chennai Corridor has been assigned to China under Government to Government cooperation.

Surge pricing in trains

459. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the surge pricing in trains have benefited Railways, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that seats are going vacant after the surge pricing has been introduced, if so, the details thereof?