

Income from berth reservations in trains for children

*385. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any data of increase in income from berth reservations in the trains by charging full fare on half tickets for children; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) On Indian Railways, children below the age of 5 years are carried free. Children of age 5 years and above but below the age of 12 years for whom full berth (in reserved class) is sought at the time of reservation, are charged full adult fare *w.e.f* 21.04.2016. However, at the time of reservation if full berth is not sought then half of basic adult fare is charged subject to minimum distance for charge.

The additional earnings from passengers booked on child fare in the reserved class during the period 21.04.2016 to 20.03.2017 (based on train start date) when compared to same period of last year is about ₹ 228 crore.

State-wise data is not maintained by Indian Railways. However, zonal Railway-wise earnings from the child passengers in the reserved class during the period 21.04.2016 to 20.03.2017 (based on train start date) when compared to same period of last year are as under:-

Zonal Railway	Earnings (Approximately ₹ in Crore)	
	21.04.2015 to 20.03.2016	21.04.2016 to 20.03.2017
1	2	3
Central	68	91
East Central	32	41
East Coast	25	34
Eastern	35	45
Konkan	3	5
North Central	8	11
North Eastern	22	28
Northeast Frontier	22	30
Northern	164	214
North Western	33	43

1	2	3
South East Central	10	13
South Central	43	59
South Eastern	29	40
Southern	80	113
South Western	32	44
West Central	10	13
Western	70	90
TOTAL	686	914

Improving judicial infrastructure for quick disposal of cases

†*386. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking speedy steps to fill the vacancies in lower judiciary;

(b) whether Government has carried out a survey about the time needed to dispose of all the pending cases in lower courts of the country with the help of existing infrastructure; and

(c) whether Government would take initiative to expand the basic infrastructural framework for speedy disposal of pending cases if the delivery of justice is getting inordinately delayed owing to the existing infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): (a) to (c) The filling of vacancies of Judges/Judicial officers in Districts and Subordinate Courts is within the domain of the State Governments and the High Courts concerned. The Central Government has no role in the matter. However, the Central Government takes up the matter with the High Courts from time to time to fill up the vacancies of Judges/Judicial Officers of District and Subordinate Courts.

Disposal of cases pending in courts is within the domain of Judiciary. The Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to assist judiciary for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial systems, which, *inter alia*, involves better infrastructure for courts including computerisation, increase in strength of judicial officers/judges, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation and emphasis on human resource development.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.