

High-Speed trains

†4127. MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce Mail trains and Express high-speed trains capable of running at a faster speed in comparison to the trains running at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of trains being converted into Superfast trains; and

(c) the reasons for enhancement of passenger fare of superfast trains?

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

(b) 52 pairs of trains have been speeded up and converted into Superfast category. However, speeding up of trains is a continuous exercise over Indian Railways and is done keeping in view the operational feasibility, availability of sectional speed on line, high speed compatible coaches, high power locos etc.

‘Mission Raftaar’ has been announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17. The mission envisages, *inter alia*, increasing the average speed of all non-suburban passenger trains by 25 kmph in next 5 years. A cross functional Mobility Directorate has been created in Railway Board for this purpose.

(c) The fare of Superfast trains has not been increased. However, there is a levy of supplementary charge for superfast trains.

Involvement of terrorists in train accidents

4128. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terrorists are involved in various trains accidents, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of investigations carried out to ascertain the involvement of terrorists in these accidents;

(c) the details of measures taken up by Government to counter the nefarious designs of terrorists; and

(d) whether Government is planning to handover these terror cases to NIA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Policing on Railways being a State subject, prevention of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.