

17. The system of transportation to Bangladesh through 'Dump' and 'load adjustment' has been discontinued.
18. Withdrawal of levy of congestion charge for stone traffic transported from Eastern Railway to Bangladesh *via* Darsana/Benapole.
19. Weighment of Standard Bagged consignment policy has been rationalized.
20. Discount on loading of bagged consignment in open and flat wagons w.e.f. 24.10.2016.
21. Policy on Long Term Contracts with key freight customers launched.
22. Proliferation of 25T axle load routes to increase throughput per train.
23. Encouraging longer lead traffic by perculitiug movement from Talcher to Southern Power Houses through all rail route.
24. Electronic Registration of Demands and Electronic Transmission of Railway Receipt.
25. Innovative policies to enhance the ease of doing business such as simplifying rules and procedures, efficient weighment system and shift to digital and e-based procedures including cashless payment system.
26. SAMVAD- A process of structured dialogue between customers and top Railway authority has been initiated at Railway Board as well as zonal level to take continuous feedback from customers. Ten key Customer Managers at Railway Board level have been nominated to liaise with major freight stakeholders.
27. Introduction of time-tabled freight trains to attract traffic to rail.
28. Besides, following measures are being planned for 2017-18:
 - (i) New delivery models like- Running of double stack dwarf container under-wire.
 - (ii) Expansion of freight basket.

Losses on passenger fares and addition of extra coaches

3496. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that Railways incurred a loss of ₹33,821.70 crore on passenger fares and for addition of extra coaches during 2014-15;

(b) whether the Ministry is planning to hike passenger fares to recover operating costs, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry is taking any other steps to recover costs, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. During 2014-15, Railways incurred an overall loss of ₹33,490.95 crore on passenger (suburban and non-suburban) and other coaching services.

(b) and (c) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalisation of passenger fare structure is an on-going process. Recently, in case of new trains such as Humsafar and Antyodaya, due to higher capital cost and various additional facilities provided, variable fare structure has been introduced. In Humsafar trains, the fare has been fixed at 1.15 times the basic fare of AC 3-Tier superfast Mail/Express for the first passenger block of 50%, and thereafter, a 10% increase for every 10% increase in the passenger block for the remaining 50%. The fares of fully unreserved Antyodaya trains have also been fixed 15% higher in base fare than Mail/Express trains.

Apart from above, following steps have also been taken to increase the earnings:-

- (i) Augmentation of ticket selling capacity through operation of Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM), ticket booking through mobile phones, utilizing the services of ticketing agents like Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBS), Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA), Yatri Ticket Suvidha Kendra (YTSK) etc. to save on manpower cost.
- (ii) Organising intensive ticket checking drives including fortress checks etc. to check ticketless travel.
- (iii) Augmentation of capacity by attachment of additional coaches, running of special trains during festivals and holidays, running of Suvidha trains with higher fare structure.
- (iv) Introduction of schemes like booking of tickets under Tatkal Quota, Premium Tatkal Quota, Flexi-fare system, Special trains on special fare, Suvidha trains on variable fares, increase in RAC berths per coach etc.

Bio-toilets in trains and at railway stations

†3497. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bio-toilets installed in passenger coaches and at railway stations in the country and the number of bio-toilets installed in coaches and at railway

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.