

improvement/augmentation will be done by the Railways to ensure that blankets are washed/cleaned at least once in two months.

(c) There has been no steep hike in train fare in recent times. The last fare hike was effected in 2014-15 with effect from 25.06.2014 wherein passenger fares were increased by 14.2%. However, there was no increase in Second Class (ordinary) Suburban fare upto a distance of 80 km.

Thereafter, in 2016-17, Flexi-fare system has been introduced in Rajdhani/Duronto and Shatabdi trains from 09.09.2016. Under this system, the base fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum prescribed limit of 1.5 times in classes Second Air Conditioned, Sleeper, Second Sitting (Reserved), Air Conditioned Chair Car and 1.4 times in Air Conditioned 3-Tier.

However, various rebates have been introduced after an interim review of the flexi fare system and the following changes have been effected from 20.12.2016:

- (i) 30% Tatkal charges are not levied in these trains.
- (ii) 10% rebate in basic fare on vacant berths/seats after preparation of first chart in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.
- (iii) Provision of Tatkal quota has been reduced in flexi fare train from maximum 30% to 10 % of the total available berths.
- (iv) Flexi fares are not applicable to First Air Conditioned and Executive Chair Car.
- (v) Discounted fare has been offered on some of these trains including Jaipur-Ajmer and Ajmer-Jaipur on Train No. 12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi and for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City on 12007/12008 Chennai Central- Mysuru Shatabdi Express.

New rail lines to link Amaravati

3010. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether any timeline has been drawn to complete the survey of new railway lines linking Amaravati, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Reconnaissance-Engineering-Cum-Traffic Survey (RETS) of new line Vijayawada-Guntur via Amaravathi (106 Km) has been completed and this project has been included in Pink Book 2017-18 at a cost of ₹ 2679.59 crore subject to requisite approvals. Now work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has

been taken up. Project consists of:—

- (i) Double line connecting Errupalam on Vijayawada–Kazipet section and Numbur on Vijayawada–Guntur section for a length of 56.8 Km *via* Amaravathi.
- (ii) Single line connecting Amaravathi–Peddakurapadu on Guntur–Secunderabad line for a length of 24.5 Km.
- (iii) Single line connecting Sattenapalli on Guntur–Secunderabad section and Narsaraopet on Guntur–Guntakal section for a length of 25 Km.

Implementation of official language in Zonal Railways

†3011. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the latest details of the status of compliance of targets earmarked in annual programme for implementation of official language, along with original correspondence in official language in each of zonal railways in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): In accordance with the provisions of the Official Languages Act, 1963 and Official Language Rules 1976, promotion of usage of Hindi is a continuous endeavour on Indian Railways. The latest details of status for the Quarter ending June, 2017 for the compliance of targets earmarked in annual programme alongwith original correspondence in Official Language in each of Zonal Railways in the country are as under:—

<i>Originating Correspondence in Hindi</i>					
Sl. No.	Zonal Railway	From A to A (Target-100%)	From A to B (Target-100%)	From A to C (Target-65%)	From Region A to Offices/ Individuals in States/UTs of A and B region (Target-100%)
1	2	3	4	5	6
‘A’ Region					
1.	Northern	99.6%	98.4%	92.8%	98.8%
2.	North Eastern	99.9%	100%	97%	99.9%
3.	East Central	99.7%	98.4%	89.7%	99.4%
4.	North Central	99.4%	99.4%	81.5%	99.5%
5.	North Western	99.1%	96.2%	93%	99%

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.