Fare in Humsafar and Suvidha Express Trains

†3018. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fare in Humsafar and Suvidha Express trains is fixed under the 'Flexi Fare Scheme'; and

(b) whether at times, passengers in these trains are deprived of complimentary catering facilities, despite paying more fare than charged for Rajdhani and Duronto trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. Humsafar Express train has been introduced with special features based on variable fare structure. The fares structure of Humsafar train has been fixed at 1.15 times the base 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% subject to maximum of 1.7 times of the base fare of mail/express trains.

Suvidha trains are introduced on variable fares for meeting peak demand as may arise from time to time during summer, winter, festivals and on other occasions. The minimum fare of Suvidha trains is equal to Tatkal fare applicable for the class of accommodation for initial 20% of the berths and thereafter the fare increases for subsequent slabs of 20% of seats/berths booked subject to maximum three times of the Tatkal fare.

(b) Indian Railways does not provide complimentary catering facilities in trains. However in case of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains, catering charges are included in the chargeable fare.

Equipping Bilaspur Station with escalators

3019. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when all the stations in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh division will be equipped with escalators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): As per existing policy, escalators are to be provided at A1, A and C category stations progressively based on techno commercial feasibility and availability of funds.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.