

**Aims and objectives of flexi fare scheme**

141. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of flexi fare scheme introduced last year;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that due to flexi fares, 30 per cent of seats remain unoccupied in the Western Railway since air fares are almost same or less than the flexi fares;

(c) if so, the status of average occupancy rate of the 42 Rajdhani, 46 Shatabdi and 54 Duronto Express trains since introduction of flexi fares, month-wise and train-wise; and

(d) whether there are any plans to remove flexi fare scheme, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) There has been substantial increase in the operating cost of passenger carrying trains over Indian Railways and passenger fare is still highly subsidized. The aims and objectives of introducing flexi fares scheme are to improve earnings in view of recurring loss in passenger business. Additional resources will help Railways to provide additional facilities/amenities to the passengers over Indian Railways.

(b) The demand pattern on Indian Railways is not uniform throughout the year and it varies during the peak and lean seasons. The demand for travel surges especially during the peak season like during summer holidays, festivals etc. The average occupancy of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains in the Western Railway during the period from 9th September, 2016 to 30th November, 2017 is as under:

Train type	% occupancy
Rajdhani	93.92%
Shatabdi	99.08%
Duronto	86.21%

(c) Train-wise data is voluminous. However, month-wise average occupancy of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains during the period from 9th September, 2016 to 30th November, 2017 is as under:—

Month	Occupancy (in %)		
	Rajdhani	Shatabdi	Duronto
September, 2016	78.07	66.70	80.38
October, 2016	90.50	73.17	89.04
November, 2016	95.71	74.00	94.61
December, 2016	97.07	74.54	96.45
January, 2017	90.65	71.19	91.00
February, 2017	91.47	72.36	89.82
March, 2017	91.56	72.08	87.71
April, 2017	101.55	77.75	97.55
May, 2017	110.27	81.92	108.26
June, 2017	107.06	81.72	100.58
July, 2017	84.59	67.64	81.96
August, 2017	79.02	66.23	81.57
September, 2017	83.27	67.58	81.42
October, 2017	95.42	73.24	94.17
November, 2017	93.20	71.26	91.39

(d) An interim review of Flexi fare system has been made and the following changes have been made:

- (i) 10% rebate in basic fare on vacant berths/seats after preparation of first chart in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.
- (ii) Discounted fare has been offered for the passengers of Jaipur-Ajmer and Ajmer-Jaipur in 12015/12016 New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express and for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City in 12007/12008 Chennai Central-Mysuru Shatabdi Express. Further discounted fare has also been offered for the passengers of New Jalpaiguri-Malda Town in 12042 New Jalpaiguri Shatabdi Express.
- (iii) Provision of Tatkal quota has been reduced in flexi fare trains from maximum 30% to 10% of the total berths availability.

Further, a Committee consisting of two Railway Members and four non-Railway Members has been constituted on 11.12.2017 to examine all options and recommend best option keeping in mind passengers and Railways interest.