

(b) if so, the details of outstanding dues of contractors at DRM office, Delhi at present and since when these dues are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when payment is likely to be released to ease their problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) There is no inordinate delay in payment of bills in Northern Railway. At present 169 bills are pending in DRM Office, Delhi, Northern Railway. Claims for works carried out for Railways by Contractors are subject to due diligence as prescribed in General Financial Rules and are processed for payment thereafter. The bills are passed as soon as due diligence is complied with.

Vacant seats on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route

151. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 40 per cent seats on Mumbai-Ahmedabad trains and 44 per cent seats on the Ahmedabad-Mumbai route are going vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the loss incurred by Railways during the last three years on this sector due to vacant seats; and

(c) whether Government has found any reasons for vacant seats, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) 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 reserved trains on Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Mumbai sector during the Financial Year 2017-18 (upto November, 2017) was more than 100%.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Complaints against Flexi Fare Scheme

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

(a) whether it is a fact that right after implementation of the Flexi Fare Scheme, trains are running with a large number of vacant seats, and a large number of complaints being raised against the inordinately high prices, if so, the detailed response thereto; and