

special train services during peak period, higher fares have been fixed for running of special trains. Suvidha trains are introduced on variable fare structure during the peak seasons depending on the demand pattern. Humsafar Express, Tejas Express, Antyodaya Express and Mahamana Express have been introduced on higher fare on cost recovery basis. The endeavor is to realise higher fare for better facility trains and continue to provide service at affordable and economic rates to common man. Expenditure control measures include strict economy and austerity measures, improved man-power planning, better assets utilization, inventory management, optimizing fuel consumption etc.

Increase in fare for lower berths

2053. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to increase the fare of the lower berth during festival season and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would define the festival season, *i.e.*, time/sector/class-wise basis;

(c) whether Government has rationale for such fare increase, when the facilities in the trains are not up to the mark; and

(d) whether Government has conducted any research regarding this fare hike and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present, there are no such proposals.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Loss to railways due to non-adhering to commodity-wise quota accepted by Bangladesh railway

2054. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EDTT(F) has not been adhering to the commodity-wise acceptance given by the Bangladesh Railway for release of quota for the month of April, May and July, 2018;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-compliance and non-acceptance of the requirement of Bangladesh Railway;

(c) the number of rakes that could not be utilised through Darsana and Benapole during April, May, June and July, 2018; and

(d) the amount of loss of railway traffic, and loss of railway's revenue, national loss and loss of foreign exchange due to decrease in export traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The quota for loading of commodities for Bangladesh is given as per extant rules.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Beautification and modernisation of Kharagpur and Balichak stations

2055. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has any plan for beautification and modernisation of Kharagpur and Balichak stations under SER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Kharagpur is a Non Suburban Grade-2 category station and beautification of Kharagpur station (Painting) has been done by local artist. All the amenities/facilities have already been provided at this station as per norms.

Further, for modernisation of Kharagpur station, provision of 2nd Foot Over Bridge, 6.1M wide with ramp of 6.1 M wide at both side entrance with 3 Nos. of ramps 3M wide from Platform Nos. 2, 5 & 6 and 7 & 8 has been sanctioned. Renovation of platform surface, water vats, replacement of damage platform shelter, construction of 2 Nos. ground reservoirs, improvement of circulating area and booking office at both side entrance have been included in umbrella works for 2018-19.

Further, stainless steel water booth, land scaping and green patches are also being provided at Kharagpur station.