

service providers in their units under Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). As per the terms and conditions of the license, service providers are required to display menu/menu board in bilingual language. Vernacular language of a particular State is also used in the case of it being a majority language.

Allocation of extra funds for Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

2863. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has decided to allocate extra funds to the world heritage site Darjeeling Himalayan Railway for its effective and smooth functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to the allocations being done annually to Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) for operation and maintenance, an additional work of ₹2.50 crore has been sanctioned in current financial year for refurbishing ten DHR coaches. In addition, outlays for providing spares for steam locomotives and for induction of new diesel locomotives have also been enhanced during the current financial year.

Budgetary allocation for Bangalore suburban rail

2864. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the budgetary allocation by the Central Government for Bangalore suburban rail;

(b) the details of amount spent out of this allocation, till date;

(c) the details of the timeline for completion of the project; and

(d) whether the project is running on schedule and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The work of "Bengaluru Suburban- Construction of elevated/at

grade corridors for augmentation of line capacity" is included in Pink Book 2018-19 to be taken up on cost sharing basis with Government of Karnataka, subject to mandatory sanctions and approval of the Government. The consultancy for preparation of detailed feasibility report for the project has been sanctioned for a cost of ₹10 crore and assigned to M/s RITES in April, 2018. Once the report is received, it shall be processed for obtaining the consent of Government of Karnataka on the cost sharing pattern and mandatory approval of the Government.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

CAG report on dynamic flexi-fare system

2865. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of Comptroller and Auditor General for the year ended March 2017, has revealed that the Railways had introduced the dynamic flexi-fare system in 2016 without undertaking any study or conclusive proof resulting therefrom;

(b) whether the report says that despite recording an increase in passenger earnings in this category amounting to ₹552 crore, Railways carried 6.75 lakh less passengers during September, 2016 to July, 2017 against corresponding period in 2015-16; and

(c) whether the CAG report says that a comparison with airfare for 13 sectors showed that it was cheaper than train's flexi-fare in these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. However, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has given observation that despite low patronage of Tatkal scheme in Flexi fare trains, less patronage of Premium Tatkal Quota and lower occupancy in Suvidha trains and Special trains on Special charges, Railways have introduced Flexi Fare system in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains. Due diligence was exercised while taking decision of introducing flexi Fare system in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.

(b) As per CAG report there was an increase in the total earnings from flexi fare trains by ₹552 crore and the actual number of passengers carried by these trains decreased by 6.57 lakh during the period of September 2016 to July 2017. However, Number of passengers booked in the trains having flexi fare has registered an increase of 1.37% for the period September 2016 to June 2018 (Flexi Fare period) as compared