

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) With a view to develop freight terminals through private investment, Ministry of Railways has launched following schemes —

Private Siding - The private siding policy enables rail connectivity at party's doorstep *i.e.* factory premises and raw material producing areas, and also connects manufacturing hubs with markets across the country.

Private Freight Terminal (PFT) Scheme - The scheme facilitates rapid development of a network of freight terminals with private investment to provide efficient and cost effective logistics services with warehousing solution to end users.

These schemes are aimed to increase the freight loading and revenue generation on Indian Railways. The growth in volume of traffic and revenue is dependent on factors like Originating-Destination station pairs, customer requirement, growth in the number of such terminals, transportation requirement in the prevailing economic conditions etc.

Discontinuation of Itarsi-Satna Shuttle

†2868. SHRI KAILASH SONI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why Itarasi-Satna Shuttle train running under Itarasi-Jabalpur section in Madhya Pradesh has been discontinued;

(b) whether it is a fact that it was the only train which was running at the passenger train rate from all the stations to Jabalpur where the High Court and medical college are situated; and

(c) by when this train would be restarted by the department and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The service of 51673/51674 Itarsi-Satna Passenger has been temporarily discontinued for provision of maintenance corridor block in Itarsi-Jabalpur-Satna Section.

(b) No, Sir. Alternative services *i.e.* 51671/51672 Satna-Itarsi Passenger and 51189/51190 Itarsi-Allahabad Chheoki Passenger trains are also available to the passengers of Itarsi-Jabalpur-Satna section. Moreover, 51187/51188 Bhusawal-Katni Passenger also serves Itarsi-Jabalpur-Katni section.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) At present, it is not feasible to restore the services due to requirement of maintenance corridor block to carry out safety related works.

Letters of MPs/Ex-MPs for EQ quota

†2869. SHRI KAILASH SONI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reservation Cell is not giving importance to the letters addressed to Railway Minister and Ministers of State by Members of Parliament and Ex-Members of Parliament for confirmation of reservation through EQ reservation letters;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of letters regarding reservation from MPs have been received by the Ministry during last six months;

(d) the number of railway reservation letters on which action has been taken to confirm their tickets; and

(e) whether concerned officers dealing with reservation letters do not give equal priority to all such requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) In order to meet the urgent travel requirements of High Official Requisition (HOR) holders (*viz.* Central Government Ministers, Judges of Hon'ble Supreme Court/High Courts of various States, etc.), Members of Parliament and other emergent demands, who are on the waiting list, a limited number of berths/seats are earmarked as Emergency Quota in different trains and in different classes. The quota is released by the Railways in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long. At the time of allotment of berths/seats, emergency quota is first allotted for self travel of HOR holders/Members of Parliament, etc., strictly as per their inter-se seniority in warrant of precedence. Thereafter, other requisitions received from various quarters including that from Members of Parliament are considered and the remaining quota is released taking into account various factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, job interview, etc. Instructions are there for providing confirmed accommodation in case of waiting list tickets issued for self travel of HOR holders, Members of Parliament. Further, due priority is also given for self travel requests of former Members of Parliament. In case of requests forwarded

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