

Constitution of Committee to review flexi-fare scheme

140. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to introduce the Flexi-Fare Scheme in trains, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any Committee has been functioning to examine the feasibility of Flexi-Fare Scheme, if so, the details of the Committee and its Members; and

(c) whether the above Committee has submitted any report, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Flexi fare system has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains with effect from 09.09.2016. Under this system, the base fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum ceiling limit of 1.5 times in classes Second AC, Sleeper, Second Sitting (Reserved), AC Chair Car and 1.4 times in 3rd AC class. No change has been made in the fares for Ist AC and Executive class of travel.

(b) An eight member Committee comprising General Manager/West Central Railway, Principal Financial Advisor/East Central Railway, Executive Director Passenger Marketing, Railway Board, Executive Director Traffic Commercial (Rates), Railway Board, Advisor (Transport)/Niti Ayog, Executive Director/Revenue Management and Marketing Automation/Air India, Director/Revenue/Le Meridian and Professor of Transport Economics/Walchand Hirachand was constituted to review the flexi fare scheme.

The terms of reference of the Committee were to examine all options and recommend best option keeping in mind interest of passengers and Railways. The Committee was mandated to examine the following issues:

Impact of implementation of flexi fare in its current form with respect to:

- (i) Impact on Revenue generated for Railways.
- (ii) Impact on Passenger in terms of their choice of Railway as means of transport (with increased fare).
- (iii) Competitiveness of flexi fare *viz-a-viz* other means of transport.
- (iv) Amendment/modification if any in:
 - Flexibility of rates in peak and lean season/week days and weekend/festival season.

- 'Add on', if any, to be provided with flexi fare for better patronage of the scheme like loyalty points/deferred benefits etc.
 - Any other aspects deemed fit by the Committee.
- (v) Fare of special trains like Humsafar etc. also to be reviewed.
- (vi) Implementability of suggestions.
- (c) The Committee has submitted its report on 16.01.2018. The Report has been put up to the Board.

Amount of funds earmarked for Railways

141. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of funds earmarked for Railways for the year 2017-18;
- (b) how much, out of it, has been spent on safety, security and development of Railways; and
- (c) how much amount has been spent on account of salaries and pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) ₹ 1,87,425 crore (Net) has been provided under the Revenue Section and ₹ 1,20,000 crore (Net) under the Capital Section in Revised Estimates 2017-18.

(b) The amount spent upto December, 2017 towards safety, both from Revenue and Capital, is ₹ 40,009 crore. The amount spent on development of Railways during this period has been ₹ 75,886 crore. The expenditure on Security on Railways is a part of sub-major head-10 of Ministry of Railways' Demands for Grants, under which ₹ 4,711 crore has been spent upto December 2017.

(c) The amount spent upto December, 2017 towards staff cost is ₹ 54,523 crore and towards pension is ₹ 34,626 crore.

Global tender for procurement of rails

142. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have floated global tender for procuring rail worth over 3,500 crore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Railways were not able to meet the demand for track renewal due to shortage of rail;
- (d) whether Railways have been purchasing the rail solely from SAIL and now have decided to purchase it from abroad instead of from SAIL; and