

(a) whether former Chief Election Commissioner has said that the demonetisation of notes has not helped in controlling black money in the backdrop of recent seizure of humongous cash in the States that are going in for Assembly elections;

(b) if so, the details of seizures made in these states; and

(c) the type of action that has been taken against those who are involved in the transport of black money in the States which are going in for elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY): (a) The Election Commission of India (ECI) has informed that no such information is available in this regard.

(b) As informed by the ECI, the following are the details of the cash seized in the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana, 2018:—

State	Amount in ₹ crore
Chhattisgarh	4.48
Madhya Pradesh	13.24
Mizoram	0.65
Rajasthan	12.85
Telangana	115.19

(c) The Commission has informed that as per the Standard Operating Procedure being followed, Flying Squads and Static Surveillance Teams deployed in such elections are authorized to seize cash exceeding Rs 50,000, including other inducements like drugs, liquor, arms and other illicit articles or gift items valued at more than Rs. 10,000, if found in vehicles carrying candidate, his agent, party worker, posters and election materials. The Commission has also informed that the action under relevant provisions of Representation of the People Act, 1951, Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Income Tax Act, 1961 has been initiated against all those who were involved in the transportation of unaccounted money during elections.

#### **Flaw in flexi fare scheme**

1404. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while flexi-fare helped Railways to generate more income, it also led to reduction in number of passengers because of higher fare;

(b) whether the scheme has a major flaw in that as the flexi-fare cannot be reduced even when demand is poor resulting in loss of passengers;

(c) whether it is a fact that Railways lost 7,00,000 passengers due to the flaw in the scheme and could only earn ₹ 552 crore additionally in one year; and

(d) whether there is any plan to review the scheme of flexi-fare and if so, how far the passengers shall get benefited by the initiative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 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 to corresponding period of previous years (Non Flexi Fare period). Additional earnings due to flexi fare from September, 2016 to June, 2018 in comparison to corresponding previous years was ₹ 1500 Crore.

(c) Comparative number of passengers and earnings in Flexi fare trains for the period September, 2016 to August, 2017 *vis a vis* September, 2015 to August, 2016 are as under:—

Period	Actual passengers (In million)	Actual Earnings (in ₹ crore) (approximately)
September, 2016 to August, 2017	28.56	4658.38
September, 2015 to August, 2016	29.33	4076.57

(d) Flexi fare scheme in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Trains has been rationalized as under:—

- (i) Flexi fare scheme has been discontinued from 15 trains, with average monthly occupancy less than 50%, for full year and from 32 trains, with average monthly occupancy between 50 to 75%, during pre-defined lean period of 3 months (February, March and August) based on their occupancies.
- (ii) Maximum cap of flexi fare scheme has been reduced to 1.4 times in all flexi fare applicable classes.
- (iii) Graded discount has been introduced in flexi fare trains and Humsafar trains, where class-wise occupancy is less than 60%, 4 days prior to scheduled departure of the train as under:—

Occupancy	Discount
Up to 70%	20% on last fare
70 to 80%	10% on last fare
Above 80%	Nil

The above changes have been implemented with effect from 15-03-2019.

In view of above rationalisation in certain trains fare shall be lower and in addition, the graded discount shall also benefit the passengers.

**Antyodaya Express on Chennai Egmore Kanyakumari route**

1405. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any survey regarding the operation of 'Antyodaya Express' across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to introduce more Antyodaya Express trains on Chennai-Egmore-Kanyakumari route which is one of the busiest/heavy traffic routes in the country;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present, there are 10 pairs of Antyodaya Express trains which are being operated in different zones. The total number of passengers travelled on Antyodaya Express trains in the financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19 (upto November, 2018) was approximately 0.56 million and 1.57 million respectively.

(c) to (e) Chennai-Kanniyakumari sector is presently being served by 3 pairs of train services. Besides, major portion of the Chennai-Kanniyakumari sector is being served by 16191/16192 Tambaram-Tirunelveli Antyodaya Express. At present, there is no proposal for introduction of Antyodaya Express train between Chennai Egmore and Kanniyakumari owing to operational/resource constraints.

**Doubling of railway lines in Jharkhand**

1406. Shri Dhiraj Prasad Sahu: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the current status of the works relating to the doubling of railway lines of 1241 kilometres in Jharkhand which are likely to be completed in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): At present Railways have taken up 18 doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Jharkhand aggregating 1241 kilometres and costing ₹ 15236 crore. Details of these projects alongwith status thereof are as under:—