

(b) Kilometrage Allowance and other related allowances of the Running Staff is to be decided through bilateral discussions with the Federations and further with the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance. Accordingly, a proposal was approved by the Competent Authority and has been sent to Ministry of Finance for concurrence.

(c) and (d) The pension of Running Staff retirees has been revised as per the instructions of Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOP&PW), the nodal Department on pensionary matters. Ministry of Railways, being an administrative Ministry, follows the instructions issued by the nodal Department, *i.e.* DOP&PW on all the issues of pension.

Reduction in dynamic fares in Suvidha trains

744. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the dynamic fares introduced in the Suvidha trains are very high and so passengers are unable to bear such exorbitant rates;

(b) whether Government has received any representation and proposals to reduce the dynamic fares, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Railways to reduce the fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Suvidha specials are introduced during peak demand period on variable fare structures for reserved class. The fare structures of Suvidha trains are as under:—

- (i) Unreserved second class: Normal superfast Mail/Express fares.
- (ii) Reserved Class: Minimum fare is Tatkal fare for initial 20% of the berths and thereafter the fare increases for subsequent slabs of 20% of seats/berths booked subject to maximum three times of the Tatkal fare.

However, alternative trains on normal fare structures are already running on most of the routes of Suvidha trains.

(b) and (c) Representations/suggestions on review of certain policies are received regularly at various levels like Ministry of Railways, Zonal Railways, Division, Station level, online etc. The representations/suggestions are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken. At present, there is no proposal to reduce the fare structure of Suvidha trains.

However, refund provisions of Suvidha trains have been rationalised and normal refund rules have been made applicable for Suvidha trains also.