

Closure of printing presses under Railways

754. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has closed any printing press under Railways in the past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of printing presses presently functioning under Railways; and

(d) the details of wages and number of casual and permanent workers who are presently employed in the printing presses under Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 09 printing presses located at Fairly Place/Kolkatta/Eastern Railway, Lucknow/Northern Railway, Gorakhpur/North Eastern Railway, Garden Reach and Kharagpur/South Eastern Railway (02 printing presses), Ajmer/North Western Railway, Thiruchirapalli/Southern Railway, Kurseong/Northeast Frontier Railway and Mahalaxmi/Western Railway have been closed by 31st July, 2018.

These 09 printing presses were old printing presses engaged in printing of card tickets and general documents using the old technology. Due to introduction of Unreserved Ticketing System, Automatic Ticket Vending Machines and digitization of various documents, running of these printing presses was not justified.

(c) 05 printing presses are presently functioning under Railways.

(d) The wages paid to the workers who are presently employed in the 05 printing presses are ₹ 7,04,10,137 per month (as for the month of December, 2018) Number of casual workers presently employed in the printing press under Railways is: Nil Number of permanent workers presently employed in the printing presses under Railways is: 1196

Special train from Ayodhya to Sitamarhi

†755. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal to run a special train from Ayodhya to Sitamarhi;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a decision on the said proposal has been taken/would be taken soon; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Request from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament has been received for introduction of trains between Ayodhya to Sitamarhi. The same has been examined but not found operationally feasible, at present. However, presently 14017/14018 Sadbhavna Express is available for the passengers desirous of travelling between Ayodhya and Sitamarhi.

**Problems faced by passengers stranded in Delhi due to
non-availability of seats in trains**

†756. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any scheme to ease the condition of Indian citizens who are compelled to stay in Delhi for several days due to non-availability of reservation in trains, thereby spending more money than their paying capacity; and
- (b) if so, the detailed information thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The demand for reserved accommodation on Indian Railways is not uniform throughout the year and varies from time to time as well as train to train. During peak rush period, the demand outstrips the availability whereas during the lean period the accommodation is generally available in most of the trains. In Air Conditioned class, since only limited number of berths/seats are available, during peak rush periods, such as summer/winter vacations, festival season etc., the accommodation in these classes gets exhausted within a short time. However, during the lean period accommodation remains available for much longer period in all classes including Air-Conditioned classes. Trains running on popular and convenient timings with lesser stoppages and running time are generally well patronized and also experience waiting list almost throughout the year. However, other trains not having these features are chosen by passengers for travel only as a second alternative and are, therefore, not fully patronized.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.