

(b) whether many upper class train tickets have become more expensive than flight tickets since the introduction of flexi fare and whether Government has undertaken any study to find out about the revenue loss, if any; and

(c) the details of the maximum fare of Rajdhani first and second class and how it would compare with flight ticket for the same journey?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal to privatise Railways.

(b) and (c) The fare of upper class train tickets have a upper limit based on the distance. They cannot be compared with the airfare, as they do not have a upper limit. Additional earnings upto November, 2018 on account of implementation of Flexi fare is around ₹ 1836 crores. The concept of flexi fare has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Trains with effect from 09.09.2016. Under this scheme, the fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum of 1.4 times in classes in Second AC, Sleeper, Second sitting (reserved), AC Chair Car and 3rd AC Class. Flexi fare is not applicable in Ist AC and Executive Class of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Trains.

**Programmes/schemes for ensuring hygiene and
cleanliness at trains and stations**

2348. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the fresh measures undertaken by Government to provide necessary facilities in Railways for comfortable travel and other programmes/schemes to ensure overall hygiene and cleanliness in Railways; and

(b) whether Railways have taken note of lack of hygiene and sanitation at the platforms and in running trains and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir. To ensure comfortable journey, maintenance of hygiene and cleanliness is a continuous process and every endeavour is made to keep the stations/platforms and trains in clean condition. Major initiatives taken by Indian Railways (IR) towards improvement of cleanliness of stations, tracks and in running trains are as follows:—

- (i) Introduction of mechanized cleaning process, award of rag picking/garbage disposal contracts at stations. Rag picking from railway tracks is also being done.

- (ii) Concrete washable aprons on platform tracks are provided to facilitate clearing of night soil on platform lines by washing with water jets.
- (iii) Provision of clean and hygienic toilets including pay and use toilets at stations.
- (iv) Cleaning of coaches including toilets of trains is done at both ends including mechanized cleaning.
- (v) On Board Housekeeping Service (OBHS) has been provided in nearly 1080 pairs of trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and other important long distance Mail/Express trains for cleaning of coach toilets, doorways, aisles and passenger compartments during the run of the trains.
- (vi) 'Coach Mitra' service has been provided in around 1040 pairs of OBHS train as a single window interface to register coach related requirements of passengers such as cleaning, disinfestation, linen, train lighting, air conditioning and watering of coaches.
- (vii) Clean Train Station (CTS) scheme has also been prescribed for limited mechanized cleaning attention to identified trains including cleaning of toilets during their scheduled stoppages enroute at nominated stations.
- (viii) Earlier, dustbins were provided in air-conditioned (AC) coaches only. Now, provision of dustbin is also being done in non-AC coaches.
- (ix) IR is proliferating bio-toilets on its coaching stock so that no human waste is discharged from coaches on to the track. Nearly 2,05,000 bio-toilets have been fitted on around 56,700 coaches.
- (x) Cleanliness awareness campaigns are carried out for awareness and education of the rail users.
- (xi) Plastic Bottle Crushing Machines (PBCM) are being installed at important railway stations to prevent unauthorized use of bottles as well as improve cleanliness at stations and enhance passenger convenience at various platforms of IR.
- (xii) To ensure comfortable journey, cushioned seats and berths, air-conditioned (AC) compartments, curtains, magazine bags, bottle holders, snack tables, mirrors, luggage racks, toilets, washbasins, dustbins, soap dispensers, vestibules, tap water, improved lighting, fans, mobile-cum-laptop charging

points, reading lights etc. have been provided in coaches as per prescribed norms.

- (xiii) To provide better ride quality and safety even at higher speeds and improved interiors, LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches with superior design have also been introduced. Production Units of IR are now producing only LHB coaches from April, 2018 and, Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design conventional coaches are being gradually phased out by converting/introducing more and more trains with LHB type coaching stock in important and long distance trains.
- (xiv) Regular checks are conducted at officers/supervisors levels, and corrective action is taken wherever any deficiency is noticed.
- (xv) Enforcement of Indian Railway (Penalties for activities affecting cleanliness at railway premises) Rules, 2012.
- (xvi) Catering services on trains are made available through Pantry Cars/Mini Pantries, Train Side Vending, e-catering service and at stations through static units. In addition, while providing catering service to passengers, IR ensures that proper hygiene and cleanliness is maintained as per the standards.

(b) Complaints have been received on lack of hygiene and sanitation at the platforms and in running trains and duly taken note of. Measures taken are indicated in part (a) of the reply.

Repairing of old tracks and overhauling of bridges

†2349. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated a plan to repair old rail tracks and overhaul the dilapidated rail bridges across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the plan to renew tracks and reconstruct the dilapidated bridges in the States including Bihar and whether a time-limit has been fixed in this regard, the complete details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.