

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1271
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2022

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR RUNNING PASSENGER TRAINS

1271 DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether bids have been invited for the first time from private entities to run 150 pairs of passenger trains, where private entities will have the freedom to fix passenger fares;
- (b) if so, the reasons for this initiative;
- (c) whether private trains are running, if so, details along with route and fare;
- (d) whether Railways intend to do away with flexi fares in premium trains which are sometimes higher than flight fares; and
- (e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) At present, none of the regular trains over Indian Railways are being operated by Private train operators and there is no proposal under consideration for operation of regular passenger train services over Indian Railways by private train operator(s).

(d) & (e). In order to recover the losses and provide passengers better travelling experience, flexi fare scheme has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains that are highly prestigious trains with better facilities, service, speed and punctuality etc. Also, alternative accommodations on the routes of such trains are available for passengers on normal fare. Railways and Airlines are different modes of transport, which are not comparable in terms of volume, connectivity as well as convenience. There is no fixed maximum limit of fare in Airlines whereas Railways have fixed maximum fare throughout the year. Presently there is no proposal to discontinue Flexi Fare scheme.
