

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 223
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.01.2018**

FLEXI FARE SCHEME

***223. SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:
SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after the implementation of the Flexi Fare scheme, trains are running with a large number of vacant seats, and a number of complaints have been received against the high price under the scheme;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the status of occupancy rate of the Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Humsafar and Durgam Express trains since the introduction of flexi fares, month and train-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government has recently formed a committee to review the flexi fare system in trains by comparing the prices with that of other modes of transport and if so, the details thereof including the terms of reference of the committee;**
- (d) whether the Government is planning to reduce the prices of rail tickets during non-peak seasons/days and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 223 BY SHRI B. SRIRAMULU AND SHRIMATI ANJU BALA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.01.2018 REGARDING FLEXI FARE SCHEME

(a)&(b): Occupancy of the trains varies during peak, non-peak, festivals seasons, special occasions and weekends etc. Therefore, sometimes the trains run with higher occupancy (more than the berth potential) and sometimes during non-peak times some berths remain vacant. Train-wise data is voluminous. However, month-wise average occupancy of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains during the period from 9th September, 2016 to 30th November, 2017 are as under:-

Month	Occupancy (in %)		
	Rajdhani	Shatabdi	Duronto
September, 2016	78.07	66.70	80.38
October, 2016	90.50	73.17	89.04
November, 2016	95.71	74.00	94.61
December, 2016	97.07	74.54	96.45
January, 2017	90.65	71.19	91.00
February, 2017	91.47	72.36	89.82
March, 2017	91.56	72.08	87.71
April, 2017	101.55	77.75	97.55
May, 2017	110.27	81.92	108.26
June, 2017	107.06	81.72	100.58
July, 2017	84.59	67.64	81.96
August, 2017	79.02	66.23	81.57
September, 2017	83.27	67.58	81.42
October, 2017	95.42	73.24	94.17
November, 2017	93.20	71.26	91.39

First Humsafar trains have been introduced w.e.f. 16.12.2016. The month-wise average occupancy of Humsafar trains during the period from 16th December, 2016 to 30th November, 2017 is as under:-

Month	% Occupancy of Humsafar trains
December, 2016	75.00
January, 2017	70.80
February, 2017	77.17
March, 2017	69.17
April, 2017	88.26
May, 2017	103.17
June, 2017	90.39
July, 2017	60.18
August, 2017	57.05
September, 2017	53.32
October, 2017	73.25
November, 2017	68.67

The requests from different quarters including from Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been received for review of the flexi Fare system.

(c): Yes, Madam. A committee has been constituted to review the flexi fare system. The terms of reference of the committee is to examine all options and recommend best option keeping in mind passengers and Railways interest. The committee has been mandated to examine the following issues:

Impact of implementation of flexi fare in its current form with respect to:

- (i) Impact on Revenue generated for Railways.**
- (ii) Impact on Passenger in terms of their choice of railway as means of transport (with increased fare).**

(iii) Competitiveness of flexi fare viz-a-viz other means of transport.

(iv) Amendment/modification if any in

- **Flexibility of rates in peak and lean season/week days and weekend/festival season.**
- **'Add on' if any to be provided with flexi fare for better patronage of the scheme like loyalty points/deferred benefits etc.**
- **Any other aspects deemed fit by the committee.**

(v) Fare of special trains like Humsafar etc. also to be reviewed.

(vi) Implementability of suggestions.

(d) & (e): To improve the occupancy of all trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains, the following discount/rebate in fare schemes have been offered:-

(i) 10% rebate in basic fare is given on vacant berths/seats booked after preparation of first chart in all trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.

(ii) Discounted fare has been offered for the passengers of Bengaluru City-Mysuru and Mysuru-Bengaluru City sections in 12007/12008 Chennai Central-Mysuru Shatabdi Express and for the passengers of New Jalpaiguri-Mada Town in 12042 New Jalpaiguri-Howrah Shatabdi Express.

Further review in the passenger fare structure is an ongoing and continuous process.
