

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.37  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2018**

**EXTRA CHARGING ON FARES**

**†\*37. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Railways is fleecing double fare from passengers in the name of tatkal, premium, flexi fare;**
- (b) if so, whether additional services are being provided to passengers by railways in lieu of the above extra charge and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the reasons for introduction of said systems by the Government;**
- (d) whether this is not a fare hike through the back door; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons for introduction of such extra charging on fares?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL**

**(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 37 BY SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.12.2018 REGARDING EXTRA CHARGING ON FARES**

**(a) to (e):** Tatkal scheme has been started in December 1997. This enables passengers to book confirmed tickets one day before departure. Apart from basic fare, 10% of basic fare in second class (reserved) and 30% of basic fare in other classes, subject to maximum and minimum limit, is levied. In Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains, tatkal fare is 1.5 times of basic fare.

**2.** With effect from 01.10.2014, 50% of the Tatkal accommodation in selected popular trains has been earmarked as Premium Tatkal quota. For the premium Tatkal tickets, the fare increases by 20% after each slab of 10% berths are sold subject to maximum three times of tatkal fare.

**3.** Flexi fare scheme has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi & Duronto trains w.e.f 09.09.2016 and later in Humsafar train in a different format. Under this scheme, the fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum limit of 1.5 times in classes Second AC, Sleeper, Second sitting (reserved), AC Chair Car and 1.4 times in 3<sup>rd</sup> AC class. No change has been made in the fares of 1<sup>st</sup> AC and Executive class.

**4.** However, Flexi Fare scheme in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains has been rationalized as under:-

**(i).** Discontinuation of Flexi fare scheme from 15 trains for full year and from 32 trains during pre defined lean period of 3 months (February, March & August).

**(ii).** Maximum cap of flexi fare scheme has been reduced to 1.4 times in all flexi fare applicable classes.

**(iii). Graded discount has been introduced in flexi fare trains and Humsafar trains, where class-wise occupancy is less than 60%, 4 days prior to scheduled departure of the train as under:-**

<b>Occupancy</b>	<b>Discount</b>
<b>Up to 70%</b>	<b>20% on last fare</b>
<b>70 to 80%</b>	<b>10% on last fare</b>
<b>Above 80%</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**The above changes have been implemented w.e.f. 15-03-2019 on an experimental basis for 6 months for which booking has already been started.**

**5. Provision of additional facilities to passengers are ongoing and continuous process. Moreover, recently Project Swarn has been launched with the objective of significantly improving the passenger experience across 9 dimensions which include coach interiors, toilets, on-board cleanliness, staff behavior, catering, linen, punctuality, security, on-board entertainment, real-time feedback. 14 Rajdhani and 15 Shatabdi trains have been selected under this project.**

**The cost of additional services is borne by Railways and the same is not being transferred to the passengers. Earnings from Flexi Fare scheme can offset the cost being borne by Railways in providing improved services.**

**Further, new types of coaches with better facilities have been introduced over Indian Railways.**

**6. The concept of tatkal quota, premium tatkal quota and flexi fare schemes has been introduced based on the demand pattern on popular trains. Total number of trains having Tatkal quota and Premium Tatkal quota facility during 2017-18 were on an average 2857 and 904 per day respectively.**

**Flexi fare scheme is confined to Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto and also in Humsafar trains in a different format.**

**7. Indian Railways have given concessions/discounts as under:-**

**(i). 10% discount in basic fare on vacant berths/seats booked after preparation of first chart.**

**(ii). Discounted fare in Shatabdi trains over 4 sections viz. Bengaluru-Mysuru, Mysuru-Bengaluru, Ahmedabad-Vadodara and Jalpaiguri-Malda Town sections.**

**(iii). To facilitate second class passengers, sleeper class coaches running vacant have been de-reserved on a particular section as second class unreserved on second class fare.**

**(iv). Further Graded discount has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto and Humsafar trains as mentioned in para 4 above.**

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