GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2689 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2019

REDUCTION IN FARE OF SHATABDI

†2689. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the fare of Shatabdi and other trains;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps in this regard so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2689 BY SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.12.2019 REGARDING REDUCTION IN FARE OF SHATABDI

- (a) to (c): Flexi fare is applicable on Shatabdi, Rajdhani & Duronto trains and based on the feedback from different quarters, a committee was constituted to review the Flexi Fare scheme. Further, based on the committee's recommendations and other representations, the matter has been examined and Flexi Fare scheme has been rationalized w.e.f 15.03.2019 as under:-
- (i). Discontinuation of Flexi Fare scheme (Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Express trains) from 15 trains fully and from 32 trains during pre defined lean period of 3 months (February, March & August). Out of these, during pre-defined lean period, Flexi Fare has been withdrawn from 18 Shatabdi trains and fully withdrawn from 13 Shatabdi trains.
- (ii). Maximum cap of Flexi Fare scheme has been reduced to 1.4 times from 1.5 times earlier in all Flexi Fare applicable classes.
- (iii). Graded discount has been introduced in Flexi Fare trains where class-wise occupancy is less than 60%, 4 days prior to scheduled departure of the train as under:

Occupancy	Discount
Up to 70%	20% on last fare
70 to 80%	10% on last fare
Above 80%	Nil

The above has been implemented for the journey commencing on or after 15.03.2019.

Further instruction has been issued to withdraw variable fare scheme from Humsafar trains.

Apart from above, the following discount/Rebate schemes have been introduced over Indian Railways during the last four years:

- (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 schemes have been offered in Shatabdi trains running vacant over 4 sections viz. Bengaluru-Mysuru, Mysuru-Bengaluru, Ahmedabad-Vadodara and New Jalpaiguri-Malda Town sections.
- (iii). To facilitate second class passengers in many trains/sections, sleeper class coaches (running underutilized on particular section) have been de-reserved on the particular section as second class unreserved and fare is charged for second class unreserved fare instead of sleeper class fare.
- (iv). Power has been delegated to Zonal Railways to declare AC-3tier coaches (running vacant/in locked condition on particular section) as AC chair Car on particular section on AC chair Car fare.
- (v). Power has been delegated to Zonal Railways to grant discount in the fare of AC Chair Car and executive class over part of the section, last/first leg, end to end, weekends etc., in trains whose occupancy is below 50%. The element of discount can be decided between 10% and 25% based on the fare of alternative mode of transport.
