

Railway Booking Clerks

2666. SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that illiterate passengers even today form the majority of rail ticket purchasers and majority of the Booking Clerks at the railway station either do not return the change due to them or extract more than is due and thus make Rs. 20 to 30 at the small stations and more than Rs. 100 at the bigger stations ;

(b) whether Railway authorities pay surprise checks to curb this practice ; and

(c) whether Railways propose to limit fraction of a rupee for Railway fares and freight to 50 paise and round off Rs. 19.35 to Rs. 19 and Rs. 19.68 to Rs. 20 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) According to a non-suburban passenger profile survey conducted by Rail Tariff Enquiry Committee in the year 1979 which covered 100% superfast trains, 50 per cent mail/express trains, 20 per cent long-distance passenger trains and 40 per cent short-distance passenger trains, the percentage of illiterate passengers, class-wise, was as follows :

ACC	1st.	1st. class chair car	2-tier AC sleeper	AC Chair Car	Second Class sleeper	Second Class sitting	All classes
—	0.47	0.56	—	0.42	3.47	13.05	7.00

The Railway Board and the Zonal Railways do receive complaints regarding excess charging from passengers by booking clerks but no

information is available in regard to booking clerks making Rs. 20/- to Rs. 30/- at smaller stations and more than Rs. 100/- at bigger stations.

(b) Yes. Surprise checks are conducted by inspectors and officers of Vigilance and Commercial departments to see that excess charging is not done by booking clerks.

(c) With a view to eliminate such problems, the Rounding Off Rule relating to passenger fares is being rationalised with effect from 1-10-81. Freight charges on goods, parcels and luggage traffic are already being rounded-off to the next higher rupee.

Bihar Shariff Nawada Line

2667. SHRI KANWAR RAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether government have carried out any survey for connecting Bihar Shariff and Nawada both district headquarters with rail keeping in view of the passenger and goods traffic there; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Bihar Shariff to Rajgir is already an existing B.G. line. No survey has been carried out from Rajgir to Nawada.

(b) Due to paucity of funds.
Bandel Katwa Line

2668. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) total number of representations/memoranda received by Government about the electrification and doubling the Bandel-Katwa line of Eastern Railway;