

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:668  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010  
RESERVATION QUOTA  
Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

- (a): whether the Railways are aware that touts in connivance with some Railway personnel are able to corner confirmed tickets, especially during peak seasons on long route destination/prestigious trains such as Shatabadi/Rajdhani;
- (b): whether the Railways have undertaken any special drive to check this menace;
- (c): whether at times recommendation for Member of Parliament (MPs) for confirmation of Wait-listed (W/L) tickets are not honoured; and
- (d): the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) & (b): Some cases of touts/anti-social elements cornering confirmed tickets, with or without the connivance of railway officials, do come to notice. To prevent such activities, intensive checks are conducted by Commercial and Vigilance Departments at reservation offices, stations and in trains. Surveillance and monitoring at reservation offices is also stepped up during peak rush periods. Touts so apprehended are taken up as per provisions of law. During the current year 2009-10 (upto January, 2010), 51192 checks were conducted against activities of touts/anti-social elements and 2085 touts were prosecuted. Railway staff, if found conniving with touts are taken up under Discipline & Appeal Rules. In order to bridge the gap between demand- supply of reserved accommodation, special trains are run, new trains introduced and the load of existing trains augmented. In addition, the public is educated through various media to desist from purchasing tickets from unauthorized persons.

(c) & (d): In order to meet the urgent travel requirements of High Official Requisitions holders, Member of Parliament (MPs), MLAs, VIPs and other emergent demands, a limited number of berths/seats have been earmarked as Emergency Quota in all important trains in different classes. Preference in this quota is given for self travel of high dignitaries. Thereafter, other requests received from various quarters are considered and the unutilised quota is released taking into account the factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like travelling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, etc. While the requests forwarded by MPs are generally complied with, but at times, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests when the demand exceeds the availability.