

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1346

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2014

SPECIAL TRAINS

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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have prescribed any criteria for declaring a special train as premium train taking into consideration the facilities provided to the passengers and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the fare and cancellation charges in these special premium trains are higher than the special trains and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways are unable to provide the basic facilities in these special premium trains viz. pantry car, water etc. to passengers inspite of higher fares; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to provide the passengers with special facilities in the premium trains according to the fares?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a): Indian Railways operate a large number of suburban services, passenger services and Mail/Express services, which include Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duronto, Yuva and Garib Rath services, catering to various segments of the travelling public. The premium trains do not displace these regular services but complement them by providing a facility for travel at short notice by paying premium fares.

Mainly three types of Premium services are introduced

- (i) Fully air conditioned with limited stoppages or without any stoppages
- (ii) mixed services (AC & Non AC classes) on mixed Duronto pattern with no stoppages
- (iii) Mixed services (AC & Non AC classes) with limited stoppages.

(b): The base fare of the premium trains is the normal adult fare applicable for the normal trains plus the 'tatkal' charges and the fare can increase based on demand intensity subject to a prescribed maximum limit. The premium train have short advance reservation period and no refund is permissible except in the case train is fully cancelled or if Railways are unable to allot the booked accommodation to the passenger.

(c) & (d): The menu and tariff of the catering services for the Rajdhani type premium trains are similar to Rajdhani trains and for mixed Duronto premium special trains are similar to Mixed duronto trains. In case of the mixed composition trains having stoppages enroute (Mail/Express), the catering are similar to mixed Duronto trains. However, as per policy, there is no catering service in trains departing at 2130 hours or thereafter and arriving at 0730 hours or before the next day. In case there is no pantry car attached in the premium trains, catering charges are not to be included in the ticket fare. Premium trains provide the special facility of confirmed accommodation on a shorter advance reservation period on high demand sectors.