

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 603
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2019**

FLEXI FARE SYSTEM

603. SHRI V. ELUMALAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the flexi fare scheme introduced by the Railways has resulted in lower occupancy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also true that though the scheme has benefitted by more than Rs. 550 crore, the scheme has forced passengers to look at the option of air travel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) & (b): The concept of flexi fare was introduced with effect from 09.09.2016. An analysis of number of passenger booked in Rajdhani, Duronto & Shatabdi Express trains (having flexi fare) during the period from September 2016 to August 2018 has revealed that there has been an increase of 0.95% in the number of passengers booked in these trains as compared to corresponding period of previous years.

(c) & (d): During the period from September 2016 to November 2018, Railways has been benefited by an additional earnings of approximately ₹ 1836 crore due to flexi fare.

However, Railways and Airlines are different modes of transport, which are not comparable in terms of volume as well as convenience. There is no fixed maximum limit of fare in Airlines whereas Railways have fixed maximum fare throughout the year. Hence Railways fare may or may not be higher than the air fare depending upon the class of travel as well as the peak or lean periods. It is the choice of the passengers to opt for either Railways or Airlines for travelling as per their convenience. Alternative train services on normal fare structure are also available over Indian Railways on the routes of most of the Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains.
