

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 637
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2020**

SPECIAL TRAINS

637. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Special Trains including Suvidha Trains run by the Government across the country during last year and the current year;**
- (b) whether the cases of misuse of reserved tickets have come to the notice of the Government in such trains during the said period;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in such cases so far;**
- (d) whether the fare of such trains are kept higher from the fare of normal trains;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with profits earned by the Government from such trains during the said period;**
- (f) the requests received by the Government from various quarters not to charge higher fare in such trains along with action taken on such requests so far; and**
- (g) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?**

ANSWER

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 637 BY SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.02.2020 REGARDING SPECIAL TRAINS

(a) The number of special trains trips and Suvidha trains trips (including special fare trains) run across the country during last year and current year are as under:-

April 2018 to March 2019 (Approx.)	April 2019 to December 2019 (Approx.)
34237	32145

Besides, running of special trains on various sectors is an ongoing process and varies on day to day basis.

(b) and (c): Train wise details of cases of misuse of reserved tickets are not maintained. However, Indian Railways has taken various measures to keep a check on misuse of reserved tickets, some of which are as under:-

- (i) Regular checks are conducted in mass contact areas such as Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centers, booking offices, platforms, trains etc. to prevent unauthorized ticketing activities. Such checks are also intensified during peak period like festivals, holidays etc.**
- (ii) Instructions have been issued to ensure that tickets are not booked on abbreviated names and full name of the passenger and the surname wherever applicable are captured at the time of booking reserved tickets.**
- (iii) Carrying of prescribed identity proof has been made compulsory for one of the passengers while undertaking journey in reserved class.**
- (iv) Checks conducted at Reservation Offices are supplemented by checks on the trains to detect the cases of transferred reserved tickets i.e. persons found travelling fraudulently against accommodation actually reserved in the name of another passenger.**
- (v) Surveillance at reservation offices is stepped up by installing Close Circuit Television at important PRS locations to keep watch on any possible misuse of reservation system.**

(vi) General public are also educated through Public Address System and media, not to buy tickets from unscrupulous elements and consequences of buying tickets from these sources.

(d) and (e) The following types of special trains are introduced to clear extra rush during peak demand periods:-

Type of special trains	Fare
(i) Fully unreserved (second class) train	(i). Normal second class Mail/Express fare for unreserved second class
(ii) Special trains with mixed composition/fully reserved.	(ii). (a) Second class (unreserved): Normal second class Mail/Express fare for unreserved second class. (b) Second class (reserved): 10% higher than the normal Mail/Express fare for second class. (c) Other classes: 30% higher than the normal Mail/Express fare of the particular class.
(iii) Suvidha Special	(iii). (a) Unreserved second class: Normal superfast Mail/Express fares. (b) Reserved Class: Minimum fare is Tatkal fare for initial 20% of the berths and thereafter the fare increases for subsequent slabs of 20% of seats/berths booked subject to maximum three times of the Tatkal fare.

From above, it may be seen that there is no increase in fare for second class (unreserved). However, for other classes higher fares have been fixed in view of investments for the coaches, empty running of certain rakes/locos from one location to another, arrangements of spare Guards/Loco Pilots, special arrangements for stabling/maintenance of the rakes and in certain cases unidirectional demand pattern etc. The train-wise profitability is not maintained.

(f) and (g) Representations are received from different quarters and review of policy is an ongoing and continuous process. At present, there is no proposal to review the existing policy for running of special trains.
