

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 780
ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

SHRAMIK SPECIAL TRAINS OPERATED DURING LOCKDOWN

780.SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Shramik Special trains operated in the country to transport migrant workers during lockdown;
- (b) the total amount collected by Railways from the migrant workers for their journey in the Shramik trains, and the reasons they were not operated free of cost to the migrant workers;
- (c) the number of Shramik trains operated which lost their way and traveled in wrong direction, the reason for such incidents, and the actions taken on it; and
- (d) the number of complaints received from the migrant workers on unavailability of food and water on Shramik Special trains?

ANSWER

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

(a). Keeping in view the urgent requirement of movement of stranded persons Shramik specials were organized in a mission mode. These Shramik specials were organized as “trains on demand”, as and when State Governments requisitioned these trains, in accordance with the protocol and guidelines given by the Government. In all, 4621 Shramik Special have been operated between 1st May, 2020 and 31st August, 2020 carrying 63.19 lakh passengers to their home states.

(b). Shramik Special trains were requisitioned by State Governments. In normal circumstances such special trains are booked by State Governments/any agency or by an individual on Full Tariff Rates which include normal fare for both directions, service charge, empty haulage charge, detention charge etc.

Indian Railways allowed booking of Shramik Specials on normal fare for one direction only. Special arrangements like enhanced sanitisation, special security, medical arrangement, rake

sanitisation, free meals, water etc. for Shramik operations, further added to the overall cost of running these trains.

Railways have collected fare for Shramik Special trains from State Governments or their authorised representatives. Railways did not collect any fare directly from the passengers.

Fare collected from State Governments or from the representatives of State Governments for running of Shramik Special trains for period 1st May,2020 to 31st August, 2020 is approximately ₹433 crore.

Railway could recover only a small fraction of expenditure incurred on running of Shramik Special trains, thereby incurring a loss in the operation of these trains.

(c) No train lost its way or travelled in the wrong direction. As most of the Shramik specials were run towards Eastern part of the country on specific routes, to ease congestion on these routes, very few trains were routed through alternate non-congested routes between 20th and 24th May, 2020 during the peak phase of Shramik special operations.

(d) 113 complaints have been received by IRCTC from passenger travelling on 4621 Shramik special trains on unavailability of food and water during the operation of Shramik Special Trains.
