

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:708

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001

SURPRISE CHECK ON THE PALACE ON WHEELS

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;BALARAMA KRISHNA MURTHY
KARNAM;CHANDRA NATH SINGH;MOHAN RAWALE;RAMSHETH THAKUR;SHYAMA SINGH;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CBI conducted a surprise check on the prestigious luxury train 'Palace on Wheels' in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the number of passengers who were found to be without tickets and the number of those who had valid tickets;
- (c) the number of passengers who were related to the employees of Railway and of those who were guests of Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation; and
- (d) the action taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL)

(a) Yes, Sir. A surprise check was conducted on Palace on Wheels on 08/09/2001 by a team of Central Bureau of Investigation officers of Jodhpur Branch.

(b) As reported by Central Bureau of Investigation, 79 passengers were found to be travelling without authority and 38 passengers had valid tickets.

(c) One Railway official with his wife travelled on Complimentary basis. As reported by Central Bureau of Investigation, 67 passengers were invited by Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, whereas on board figure is more than 67.

This is, however, under verification from Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation by Central Bureau of Investigation.

(d) A regular case has been registered by Central Bureau of Investigation on 14.9.2001 and the same is under active investigation by them.