

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2292
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2000
MENACE OF TOUTS
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the menace created by touts and unauthorised travel agents in getting railway tickets and reservation in the country ;
- (b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the railway employees are in connivance and complicity with these touts to get under benefits ;
- (d) if so, the number of raids conducted in each zone so far , during the last two years and current year and the action taken against the guilty officers in this regard ;
- (e) whether the Government are aware that existing provisions are not adequate to check the illegal reservation;
- (f) if so , whether the Government propose to revive the existing provisions to make these laws more effective; and
- (g) if so the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Regular checks are conducted by Commercial department, Vigilance department and Government Railway Police against touts and other anti-social elements in reservation offices and in trains against reservations on fake names. Railway Protection Force has been activated to ensure that such elements are driven away from the railway premises ;including reservation offices. Checks are also conducted on the premises of authorised Rail Travel Agents to see if any irregularities are being committed by them. Campaigns are launched from time to time through various media for educating the general public to desist from purchasing tickets from unauthorised persons. Augmentation of trains/coaches and increase in frequency of trains during peak period is done to increase availability of accommodation.

(c): A few cases of railway employees conniving with the touts have come to notice.

(d): The number of raids zone-wise for the last two years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and the current year 1999-2000 (upto December, 1999) are shown in Annexure and various actions like prosecution, fines against touts and DAR action against officials found conniving is taken.

(e) to (g): Review of adequacy of the existing provisions of the Railways` Act/Rules is a continuous process and necessary action as warranted is taken as and when required.