

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:302

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005

MENACE/ PRESENCE OF TOUTS AT RAILWAY RESERVATION COMPLEXES

Agarwal Shri Dharendra;Rana Shri Kashi Ram

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the presence/menace of touts at railway reservation complexes;
- (b) if so, the number of touts arrested during the last one year, till date and the action taken against them;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to completely curb the presence and menace of touts at railway reservations complexes in the country in general and Delhi in particular;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to reduce the booking period for railway reservation from present 60 days to 30 or 15 days to ensure availability of reservation in trains;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the manner in which the Government proposes to make railway reservation available to general public?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): During the year 2004 and upto September, 2005 for which the data is available, 3026 persons were prosecuted.

(c): Regular and surprise checks are conducted in and around railway reservation offices to curb the illegal activities of touts and other anti-social elements. Persons detected indulging in touting activities are dealt with as per relevant provisions of law. Surveillance at reservation offices of all important locations including those falling in Delhi area is stepped up during peak/rush periods. In addition, traveling public are advised through various media to desist from approaching unauthorised people for reservation.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.

(f): The reservation of berths is done on first-cum-first-served basis. Moreover, for the passengers who have to travel at short notice, Tatkal Reservation Scheme is available. The booking under this scheme has now been made 3 days in advance (excluding day of journey) of schedule departure of the train. In addition, the hours of booking on internet have been extended.