

[2nd March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) As already stated in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1788 on 10-03-2000, total moratorium on inaugural/celebratory functions is not desirable in the interest of customer care, passenger feedback, public participation and also publicity of Railway's/Government's programmes and achievements. However, keeping in view the recommendation of Railway Safety Review Committee, instructions have been issued that all functions must be organized in an austere manner.

(d) During the last one year, formal inaugurations of computerised reservations centres were held at Shirdi, Maihar, Vidisha, Calcutta Press Club, Rajendranagar, Hazaribagh Town, Russa Road (Kolkata), Dum Dum Airport (Kolkata) Barrackpore Railway Station, Kidderpore, Banka, Jamui, Gholshapur, Malda, Pali, Jalore, Delhi (Sarai Rohilla), Bikaner, Gomti Nagar, Sitamarhi, Betiah, Raiganj, Balurghat, Tirupadripuliur, Mavelikkara, Ernakulam, Tiruverumbur, Raigarh, Srikakulam road and Durgapur Railwaymen are not deputed exclusively for the inaugural functions relating to Railway projects, services, etc. as the same also forms a part of their job. However, total expenditure incurred on these inaugurations was about Rs. 26.51 lakh.

Unutilised Railway Land

†952. **SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:**

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that large areas of Railway land are lying unutilised;
- (b) if so, the States in which the said land is lying and the area of such land, State-wise; and
- (c) the area of the same which is under illegal occupation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Of the 4 lakhs 20 thousand hectares of land owned by the Railways, a major portion is used for tracks and other assets. Only a small portion, presently lying unutilised, is required for maintenance and operational requirements of the Railways as well as for future developmental needs. State-wise information in this regard is not maintained. However, Railway zone-wise details of land under unauthorised occupation are given in the enclosed statement. Information regarding Zone-wise details of land lying unutilised is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Sabha.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement**Railway zone-wise land under unauthorised occupation***(in hec.)*

Zone	Area under unauthorised occupation
Central	89
Eastern	42
Northern	1218
North-Eastern	895
North-East Frontier	358
Southern	77
South-Central	86
South-Eastern	777
Western	105
TOTAL:	3647

Privatisation of Foreign Investment in the Railways

953. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Ministry for privatisation or foreign investment in the Railways;

(b) if so, the areas the Ministry is thinking of privatisation or for foreign investment;

(c) the period required for privatizing the identified areas; and

(d) whether the Railways have carried out any study to identify the areas for privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Introduction of steam engine Train in AP

954. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Andhra Pradesh Government for introduction of an old train with steam engine, to the picturesque Araku valley in Visakhapatnam to promote tourism;