

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Upgradation of railway stations is a continuous process. Out of 258 railway stations situated in the State of Orissa, there are 40 upgraded stations.

(b) Minimum Essential Amenities as per norms have already been provided at all railway stations in the State of Orissa.

(c) Does not arise.

Meeting of Advisory Committees

266. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that General Railways Advisory Committees, Divisional Railway Advisory Committees and Railways Users Committees at railway station level are not meeting regularly; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) All efforts are made to hold the meetings of Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees (DRUCCs), Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committees (ZRUCCs) and Station Consultative Committees (SCCs) as per schedule. Due to various reasons such as delay in receipt of nomination from various organizations, administrative constraints and exigencies, sometimes, meetings are not held as per schedule.

Network of touts in Railways

267. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after computerisation there is a large network of touts operating in various major cities of the country;

(b) whether any such activities have come to the notice of her Ministry;

(c) what are the steps taken or are being taken to crack down on these touts;

(d) whether any arrest has been made in the last one year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During the course of internal checks, some cases have come to notice.

(c) Regular checks are conducted in and around the railway reservation offices to curb the activities of touts and other anti-social elements. Surveillance at reservation offices is also stepped up during peak rush periods. Touts so apprehended are taken up as per provisions of law. Travelling public is educated through various media to desist from procuring tickets from unauthorized people. A number of steps as introduction of new/special trains, augmentation of carrying capacity/extension of existing trains have also been undertaken to increase availability