

- (b) if so, the nature and reasons for this scrutiny;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that increasing number of accidents has caused worry all over the country; and
- (d) the steps proposed to reduce accidents and improve functioning of the railways?

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

- (b) Dose not arise.
- (c) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents has decreased consistently from 415 in 2001-02 to 177 in 2008-09. In the current year also, during April to 30th November 2009, the number of consequential train accidents decreased to 102 from 177 during the corresponding period of the previous year.
- (d) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible measures are being taken to prevent accidents which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of consequential train accidents as stated above.

Plan for mobilization of financial resources

1819. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's plan for financial resource mobilization by using surplus railways land includes use of such lands for creating industrial and manufacturing facilities in consultation with State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have planned to utilise its vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage and Perishable Cargo Centres, etc. Consultation with State Governments is done wherever required.

Utilization of surplus railway land

1820. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to utilize surplus railway land for mobilizing additional financial resources;
- (b) if so, the details and financial projections thereof;
- (c) the details of surplus railway land available, State-wise and location-wise;