

development of vacant railway land and air space, which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs. So far, 135 sites have been entrusted to the RLDA for commercial development.

In addition, Railways plan to utilise its vacant land wherever feasible for setting up of various infrastructure and socially inclusive projects, Health Care Facilities, etc. through innovative financing models.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Encroachment of railway land in Punjab

1017. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of railway land in Punjab still under adverse possession with details thereof, indicating the parties in possession;

(b) the area of railway land retrieved from the grabbers during the last three years ending 31st December, 2009; and

(c) the action so far taken against railway employees who were found involved in grabbing railway land or who helped the squatters in such land with the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There is no Railway land under adverse possession in the State of Punjab. However, an area of 35.4 hectare is under encroachments, mostly by farmers, in the State of Punjab.

(b) An area of 19.8 hectare of railway land has been retrieved from the encroachers during the last three years ending 31.12.09 in the State of Punjab.

(c) Involvement of railway officials in land grabbing and/or helping the encroachers has not been established or reported so far.

Train accidents

1018. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of train accidents have taken place recently;

(b) if so, the details of accidents, the number of people died/injured, the compensation paid, etc., zone-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that shortage in the number of drivers and fatigue of drivers due to over work has been the main reason for majority of the accidents; and

(d) if so, the details of shortage of drivers in different zones and steps being taken to appoint sufficient number of drivers and other staff in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The number of train accidents, viz. Collisions and Manned Level Crossing accidents