

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Prospective investors are free to participate in schemes/areas/projects identified for execution through private participation.

(b) There is no plan to privatize any sector of Railways. However, certain areas have been identified for execution through partnership with private sector. Some of these are: manufacturing of locomotives/coaches/wagons, development of world-class stations, operation of container trains, Liberalised Wagon Investment Scheme, connectivity to ports and other industrial clusters, private freight terminal, special freight train operation, auto hubs and ancillaries, medical colleges, educational institutions and revenue generation by leveraging the advertisement potential using railway's assets, properties and services etc.

Facilities for seasonal pass holders

4737. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities provided to the first class/AC Chair Car monthly pass holders travelling on Mumbai-Pune route;

(b) the action Railways has taken on numerous complaints by the seasonal pass holders travelling on this route daily in trains like Indrayani Express, Deccan Queen, Intra-City Express and Deccan Express;

(c) whether there is any plan to attach special bogies for seasonal pass holders, or providing them at least reserved seats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There is no separate provision of Monthly Season Ticket in AC Chair Car. However, 2 chair car coaches each in Train Nos. 2123/2124 CSTM-Pune Deccan Queen and 6 seats each in chair car coaches of Train Nos.2127/2128 CSTM-Pune Intercity have been earmarked for exclusive use of First Class season ticket holders.

(b) No such complaints have been received in this regard from 1st Class season ticket holders travelling by these trains.

(c) Presently there is no plan to further attach additional coaches for season ticket holders.

(d) Does not arise.

Condition of train compartments

4738. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the long distance trains like Rajdhani, Falaknama, Coromandal, Shatabdi, Dhanli Puri express, Tapaswini express, Konark expresses running from Orissa or coming to Orissa the condition of compartments is very bad in comparison to the compartments of the trains running in North India; and

(b) whether Railways take care so that long distance trains of Orissa get good compartments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Coaches with a prescribed life and following a uniform pattern of maintenance and periodicity of overhaul are used in Passenger services on Indian Railways. There is no distinction based on 'Region' or 'State' while forming the rakes for different Trains.

MEMU train for Kerala

4739. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are going to introduce MEMU (Mainline Electrical Multiple Unit) service in Kerala;

(b) the stations between which it will run and the date from which it would start;

(c) whether Kollam-Trivandrum sector is not included in the first phase; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The trains in Indian Railways are not introduced on the basis of State. However, in the Railway Budget 2010-11, MEMU train between Ernakulam-Kollam has been announced which shall serve people of the State of Kerala.

(c) and (d) No such phasing for introduction of MEMU trains has been done.

Transfer of management of bookstalls to IRCTC

4740. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount received by Railways from the date the management of bookstalls was transferred to Indian Railway Catering Tourism Corporation Ltd.;

(b) whether Railways have taken a decision for sharing the licence fee/royalty from bookstalls at the ratio of 75 per cent to IRCTC and 25 per cent to the Indian Railways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has taken over bookstalls at A, B and C category of stations and the bookstalls owned by Major bookstall licensees at D, E and F category of stations except the bookstalls operated by philanthropic and social organizations during the year 2007-08 and onwards in a phased manner. As per action guideline IRCTC will keep 75% of the revenue earned from bookstalls and pass on 25% to the Zonal Railways. Till 31.03.2010 IRCTC has paid Rs. 100.63 lakhs to the Indian Railways.