

Amongst all States, Rajasthan has the second largest route length of 5855 Kilometres.

(e) The Rajasthan Government had earlier been requested to bear the cost of line linking Bhiwadi.

Selling of heritage items

2410. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on inquiry conducted by Railway Board in 2009 has found that the Indian Railways has sold certain invaluable heritage items as scrap, including the vintage engine that powered India's first train journey from Mumbai to Thane;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action has been taken against those responsible; and

(d) the steps, if any, being taken to better preserve such items in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir, no such inquiry was conducted.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Directions to Zonal Railways already exist to identify, preserve heritage structures, rolling stock and other items.

Vacant posts in Railways

†2411. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present about one lakh sixty eight thousand posts of Group C and D of Railways are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the number thereof, division-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these posts are mainly linked to rail operation;

(d) if so, since when these posts are lying vacant and the reasons for not filling up of these posts so far; and

(e) the steps Government has taken to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.