

Advertisement in national newspapers for railway projects

2412. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of advertisements and the space covered in national newspapers by Railways during the last three years;
- (b) the amount spent or likely to be spent for all these advertisements; and
- (c) how much Railways is getting benefited from these advertisements, the details thereof?

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

Encroachment of railway land

2413. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large area of railway land has been encroached/illegally occupied by private schools in different railway zones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof particularly in Northern and NE Railways;
- (c) whether her Ministry is aware that some private schools have illegally encroached and occupied a large tract of railway land in Varanasi, U.P. and have constructed schools' building in connivance with railway officials;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps/measures Government would take to free these lands from encroachment by private schools, particularly the land illegally encroached by Sunbeam School, Lahartara, Varanasi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) An area of 39.26 acre is under encroachments by private schools. Out of this area, 3.31 acre and 17.07 acre fall in Northern and North Eastern Railways, respectively.

(c) to (e) Land measuring 0.42 acre is under encroachment of a private school at Varanasi. Connivance of railway officials has not been established or reported so far. Moreover, no encroachment on railway land has been made by Sunbeam School at Varanasi. Action under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 is initiated against encroachments.

Woes of rail commuters due to doubling of line near Ernakulam

2414. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to prevent the woes of rail commuters due to train delay as a result of doubling of rail line in the Mulanthuruthy area near Ernakulam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The minimize public inconvenience, wide publicity was given through press, including vernacular media, electronic media, station notice boards and public address system regarding the diversion/cancellation/regulation of trains due to rail doubling works between Ernakulam-Mulanturutti in the Trivandrum division of Southern Railway from 15.3.10 to 27.3.2010.

Railway projects recommended by Maharashtra

2415. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has recommended 27 railway projects to the Central Government for laying 20 new railway lines, two gauge conversion and doubling of 5 lines;

(b) whether work has been started only on five projects and the progress is very slow due to the paucity of funds; and

(c) the steps being proposed to provide adequate funds for ongoing works and accord approval for new railway projects in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) A reference has been received from Chief Minister, Maharashtra recently regarding 12 new lines, 2 gauge conversion and 4 doubling projects. Out of these, Miraj-Latur gauge conversion has already been completed. The works are in progress on 7 other projects as per the availability of resources. Out of the remaining works, surveys have been completed for 5 proposals and have been taken up for 3 proposals.

Steps have been for providing sufficient funds for the ongoing projects.

Catering service in trains by IRCTC

2416. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains being managed by IRCTC since past 7 years on temporary basis;

(b) the details of train names and numbers;

(c) the details of authorized licensees managing catering services (pantry car) under IRCTC on temporary basis since past 7 years; and

(d) the outstanding dues against authorize licensees managing catering services on temporary basis since past 7 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No trains are being managed by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) for the past 7 years, on temporary basis.