

additional revenues for improving passenger amenities and safety on the railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of railways land that is proposed to be developed on the ECoR Rail system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to give greater thrust to commercial utilization of railway land/air-space, it has been decided to set up a separate Authority namely the railway Land Development Authority (RLDA), to undertake all tasks related to property development on railway land under the control of Ministry of Railways. Amendment to the Railways Act, 1989 as approved by Parliament has been notified in the Gazette of India on 16.9.2005 after President's assent.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The funds so generated will be ploughed back to Railway's developmental works including passenger amenities & safety on need basis.

(e) East Coast Railway has presently identified Tetichetlapalem and Chavulamadam in Visakhapatnam for commercial development.

New railway line between new Jalpaigudi and Gangtok

2373. **SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has conducted any survey to construct a new railway line between New Jalpaigudi to Gangtok;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when the above construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a survey has been conducted in 2000-01 for Sivok-Singtam new line via Giellikhola. The cost of construction of this 60 kms. long line was assessed as Rs. 1099 crore

with negative rate of return. Beyond Singtam, the new line has not been considered technically feasible due to steep gradient. The proposal has not therefore, been taken up for implementation. Further based on demands, suvery for new line from Sivok to Rangpo taken up.

(d) Does not arise.

Commercial exploitation of vacant railway land

2374. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to commercially exploit their vacant land, particularly near and around big stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the places identified, the area of land at each place proposed to be commercially exploited in the near future; and

(c) the annual income likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far 61 sites having potential have been taken up over Indian Railways for property development. Bids have been finalized for 9 sites involving a total of about Rs. 21 crore of which, Rs. 6.5 crore has already been realized. The details and area (in hectares) of the locations identified for commercial development are as under:—

Hill Cant Road (Siliguri) (2.8), Alankar Cinema fly over/Agar Khan Road (Pune) (0.58), Kharagpur (2.68), Old Godavari (Secunderabad) (1.28), Esplanade (Metro Railway, Kolkata) (shops), Madam Street (Metro Railway-Kolkata) (0.01), 24 GC Avenue, (Metro Railway-Kolkata) (shop), Shyam Bazar (Metro Railway-Kolkata) (0.01), Chintadripet Station (Metro Chennai) (shops), Chandigarh (20), Katra (30.4), Lucknow Vidhan Sabha Marg (0.80), Howrah station area (20), Manninagar (Ahmedabad) (0.63), T.A. Office Building, Kishanganj (Delhi) (1.65), Gandhinagar (Jaipur) (0.20), Coimbatore Junction (1.4), Salem (0.33), Bangalore Cantonment (1.4), Nizamuddin Railway station (0.5), Nagapattinam (Tiruchichirapalli) (0.13), Pattukkoti (Tiruchichirapalli) (0.8), Villipuram Station (tiruchichirapalli) (0.7), Gautam Buddha Institute, Gaya (0.57),