

(b) whether Government propose to increase the facilities to the second class passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Allotment/Expenditure on facilities/amenities to passengers at railway stations are charged to plan head "Passenger Amenities" mainly. The budget allotment for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 under this plan head is Rs. 215.00 crore and Rs. 222.15 crore respectively. Amount likely to be spent during 2004-05 is Rs. 221.67 crore.

(b) and (c) Amenities in passenger coaches are provided as per laid down norms of Railways. Constant efforts are made to make all coaches including Second Class coaches more passenger friendly. Efforts are being made to develop Second Class variants of coaches using imported technology from LHB/Germany.

Number of workers in ICF

1991. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to cut down the number of workers in Integral Coach Factory; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Private sector partnership in Railways

1992. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI R.K. ANAND:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study on private sector's partnership in Railways;

- (b) if so, the areas identified for such partnership;
- (c) Government's commercial objectives from such a partnership;
- (d) the response of private sector; and
- (e) to what extent Government's objectives are being met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Passenger's facilities at narrow gauge in Chhattisgarh,
Maharashtra and Orissa**

†1993. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any improvement in the facilities for passengers at narrow gauge operated in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Orissa during the last three years;

- (b) if so, the details of the facilities;

(c) the name of the railway divisions where these facilities have been provided; and

(d) the details of the pending projects for providing more facilities at narrow gauge of Chhattisgarh and for improving facilities of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Many facilities like provision of public address system, water supply, provision of urinal, improvement/raising of platform surface, improvement of lighting arrangement, passenger reservation system, booking counters, improvement of circulating area, improvement of waiting hall, cover over platforms, etc. has been provided during the last three years.

(c) Nagpur and Raipur Divisions of South East Central Railway and Solapur Division of Central Railway.

- (d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.