

**Auction System for Higher class tickets**

698. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering introduction of auction system for higher class tickets with a minimum bid of Re.1.00 in an attempt to increase occupancy rate during off-season;

(b) if so, the details of the plan worked out; and

(c) whether more than 70 per cent of seats/berths in Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains go vacant during off-season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(c) The occupancy of all trains including Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express varies from train to train. In some trains there is waiting list almost through out the year, whereas in some trains accommodation is available even during peak rush periods. However, to ensure optimum utilization of available accommodation, a scheme for upgrading full fare paying passengers to the next higher class against the vacant available accommodation in the class has been extended to all Mail/Express trains having sleeping accommodation w.e.f. 24-02-2006.

**New Railway Tracks in Maharashtra**

699. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new railway tracks added in Maharashtra during Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans, so far indicating their length also;

(b) the length and details of the railway tracks replaced and upgraded to broad gauge during the period; and

(c) the length of new railway lines to be added and replaced in Maharashtra during rest of Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of new lines added in Maharashtra during the 9th & 10th Plan Period are as under: