

(b) if so, details of expenditure incurred on free train passes by Railways, zone-wise, for the last three years, till date;

(c) whether a top Government panel has recommended to Railways to put an end to issuing of complimentary train passes; and

(d) if so, by when this practice of wasteful expenditure of issuing free train passes by Railway Minister from discretionary quota would stop?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) Grant of complimentary passes by Railway Ministers is regularised under the guidelines framed in 1998 pursuant to directions of Delhi High Court in a Public interest Litigation. Complimentary passes are issued as per these guidelines and details in this regard for the last 3 years are as under:

| Sl.No. | Year | Passes issued |
|--------|---------|---------------|
| 1. | 2008-09 | 777 |
| 2. | 2009-10 | 26 |
| 3. | 2010-11 | 04 |

(b) As the holders of complimentary passes may also undertake journeys without reservation, the data as to expenditure is not available. However, there are only 32 passes currently valid and these have been issued to eminent personalities/organizations engaged in social, cultural, educational, sports and welfare activities.

(c) and (d) No such recommendation has been received by Ministry of Railways.

Green toilets in trains

†2138. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to provide green toilets in all trains;

(b) if so, the trains in which green toilets have been provided so far; and

(c) by when this work would be completed in all the trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) Indian Railways are in the process of developing and carrying out field trials with various technologies of environment friendly toilet system before considering their fitment in coaches as a regular measure.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) So far, green toilets have been provided on trial in some coaches of New Delhi-Rewa Express, Gwalior-Varanasi, Bundelkhand Express, Saraighat Express and Chennai Alleppey Express/Trivandrum Express.

(c) It is not possible to finalise long term action plan at the moment as the technology development cycle has not matured as yet.

Selection of out agencies

2139. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the procedure of selecting Out Agencies in Railways;
- (b) whether it is a fact that some of the Out Agencies are working in Railways for more than fifty years at some places;
- (c) if so, the reasons for continuing with these Agencies for decades together; and
- (d) the reasons for having no procedure for inviting tenders while selecting the Out Agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):
(a) Contracts for working out agencies are awarded by the zonal railways by inviting competitive bids through tenders and the contract is awarded to the agency who fulfils requisites like financial soundness, experience, availability of godowns, trucks, buses, trained man power etc.

As per provisions, contracts should normally be for 3 to 5 years, where the working of the existing contractor is satisfactory the contract can be extended.

- (b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.
- (d) Does not arise.

Ticket checking in train

2140. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a train is running between Joginder Nagar-Pathankot-Kangra etc;
- (b) the amount of profit earned by it during last three years;