

excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings took place on Indian Railways during the period 23rd September, 2011 to 11th December, 2011. Out of these 21 consequential train accidents, 13 accidents were attributable to failure of railway staff, 4 due to failure of other than railway staff, 2 due to sabotage, 1 due to combination of factors and 1 accident was caused due to incidental factors.

(b) No, Sir. The efficiency parameters for train operation and employee productivity have been showing an increasing trend over the years due to adoption of new technology and rationalized maintenance practices.

(c) The number of vacant posts in Group 'C' and erstwhile Group 'D' on Zonal Railways as on 01.04.2011 is 2,21,499\*.

(d) There are 14,872\* vacant posts of Loco Pilots including Assistant Loco Pilots and 55,359\* vacant posts of Gangmen/Gangmate as on 01.04.2011.

(e) and (f) Arising and filling of posts is a continuous process. Vacancies arise due to normal retirement, voluntary retirement, deaths, promotions, etc. Vacancies are filled up primarily through open market recruitments, promotions and through compassionate ground appointments. Notifications for filling up of about 1,90,000 posts have been issued. A panel of 7,697 Assistant Loco Pilots has been provided by Railway Recruitment Boards to Zonal Railways. About 5,028\* Trackmen have been appointed against Ex-Servicemen quota so far.

#### **Constitution of Railway Stations Authority**

†2752. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to constitute a Railway Stations Authority on the lines of Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for which necessity to constitute a Railway Stations Authority was felt; and

(d) by when the action is likely to be taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) It has been proposed to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with the participation of Ircon International Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways and Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), a statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways with the primary objective of modernizing the railway stations.

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\*Figures are provisional.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) No time frame for implementation has been set.

**Passenger train between Varanasi and Ballia**

2753. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that there is no passenger train from Varanasi to Ballia between 6 A.M. to 12 noon and general bogies of express trains passing during this period are usually heavily packed;

(b) whether Railways would start a pair of intercity trains from Ballia to Varanasi and from Varanasi to Ballia keeping in view large number of commuters on the route and inconvenience to passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) At present, 17 pairs of train services serve Ballia – Varanasi sector. Of these, 5 pairs of trains are available between 06.00 hours and 12.00 hours. Introduction of an additional intercity train service between Ballia and Varanasi is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

**Surplus railway land given to employees**

2754. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether surplus railway land is being given to railway employees on lease for cultivation in order to protect it from encroachment;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions on which such land is being given;

(c) the details of surplus land given so far; and

(d) the criteria for selection of employees for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) Vacant Railway land not required for Railways operational usage in immediate future is licensed to permanent Railway employees in Group 'C' and 'D' category under Grow More Food Scheme (GMF) for a short duration to prevent encroachments. Preference given to gatemen, gangmen and staff belonging SC/ST/OBC category. Approximately, 9700 acres of Railway land has been given on license to Railway employees for cultivation in this regard.