

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations are received at various level of Railway administrations for introduction of new trains including Durgam trains and Superfast trains, and action as found feasible and justified is taken. However, introduction of new train service is an ongoing process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc. At present, there is no such proposal for introduction of such services.

Illegal use of railway properties for commercial purposes

2762. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have come to know about railway properties being used for running commercial activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Northern Railway has suspended more than 38 employees on this issue; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Indian Railways have approximately 4.31 lakh hectare of land, out of which about 968 hectare of land, which constitutes 0.23% of total land holding, is under encroachment. Encroached Railway land mainly in cities/urban conglomerates is subject to various usages like squatting, dumping of garbage, commercial activities etc. Railways are engaged in continuous exercise to remove such encroachments as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 and to protect Railway land/property by providing boundary walls, fencing, tree plantation, etc., at vulnerable locations on a programmed basis. Suitable departmental action is also taken against any Railway employee found engaged in illegal use of Railway land/property.

(c) and (d) Recently it was noticed that 58 Railway employees in a Railway colony of Delhi Division of Northern Railway were illegally using Railway staff quarters for commercial activities. Suitable disciplinary action has been taken against them.

Device to counter fog

†2763. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, due to fog in winter train movement throughout the country gets out of order, trains run late by 20 to 25 hours and dozens of trains get cancelled, thereby causing difficulties to the passengers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.