

(b) the special measures being taken by Government to improve Railways' poor financial condition; and

(c) whether Government is considering a hike in freight and passenger fares to improve poor financial condition of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Financial condition of Railways has been adversely affected by lesser internal resource generation mainly because of unprecedented impact of Sixth Central Pay Commission on staff costs and pensionary liability.

(b) It is continuous endeavour of the Railways to control expenditure and increase resources. Steps being taken for maximizing the traffic earnings *inter-alia* include rationalization of fare and freight tariff within parameters of social responsibility of Railways; effective marketing strategies to capture more and more traffic; creation of additional capacity and optimum utilization of the existing rail infrastructure; improved throughput by steps to increase productivity and efficiency; improvement of passenger interface etc. Railways are making efforts to contain the expenditure through diverse means including strict economy and austerity measures; improved man-power planning; better asset utilization and inventory management, optimizing fuel consumption etc.

(c) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of the fare and freight structures in an on-going process on the railways.

Leasing out vacant railway land

1685. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to lease out vast railway land lying vacant across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the sites; and

(c) the amount Government is going to realise out of this lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Indian Railway network occupies a land area measuring about 10.65 lakh acres. Ninety per cent of this land is directly under

railway tracks, yards, workshops and allied infrastructure. The vacant land, measuring about 1.13 lakh acres is mostly in the form of a narrow strip along tracks which railways have been utilizing, or plan to utilize, for its expansion in the form of doubling, third line, quadrupling, gauge conversion, freight corridors, yard remodelling, traffic facility works, workshops, etc. for servicing and maintenance of track and other rail related infrastructure. Vacant railway land/air-space not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs is utilized for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible. So far, 55 sites having area of 154 hectare amenable for commercial development have been identified. As the commercial development is a market driven activity, to be undertaken with the approval of the State Governments/local authorities, assessment of revenue generation can only be done when specific schemes are taken up for development.

Unmanned railway crossings in Maharashtra

1686. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of unmanned railway crossings across Maharashtra at present;
- (b) the number of accidents, major as well as minor ones, reported at these crossings during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether Government has earmarked the unmanned crossings in the State to make them manned ones; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) As on 01.04.2012, the number of unmanned railway crossings in Maharashtra State is 651.

(b) The details of accidents occurred at Unmanned Level Crossings (ULCs) in the past three years upto November, 2012 is as given below:

Year	Number of railway accidents
2009-10	01
2010-11	05
2011-12	04
2012-13 (upto Nov'2012)	02