

Certain suggestions like allowing restricted cooking on platforms, grant of renewal of license to the legal heir of General Minor Units (GMUs) for both general and reserved category etc. fixation of licence fee of Minor Static catering units and renewal to these units etc. have been incorporated in the Catering Policy, 2010. After due consideration a new Miscellaneous Article Policy, 2012 has been issued on 02.11.2012. The Bookstall Policy, 2004 is subjudice since 2005 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and status quo is being maintained in all book stall contracts.

(c) and (d) A few assurances are pending only on matters where data/information are to be collected and complied from the zonal railways.

#### **Vacant railway land**

†1698. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large area of railway land in various railway zones, particularly in backward and rural areas of the country is lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof, railway zone-wise, as on date, particularly with reference to the backward and rural areas;

(c) the details of the land lying vacant and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government proposes to allocate the vacant railway land to poor people on lease;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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, commercial development, wherever feasible and other rail related infrastructure.

Zone wise details of vacant land are given in the Statement (*See below*).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

*Statement*

*Vacant railway land*

Railway	Vacant land (in acres)
Central	6188
Eastern	3792
East Central	8620
East Coast	4707
Northern	9489
North Central	1079
North Eastern	14352
Northeast Frontier	11718
North Western	5953
Southern	5673
South Central	5557
South Eastern	4467
Southeast Central	9659
South Western	2255
Western	17970
West Central	1458
TOTAL :	112937

**Gas turbine electric locomotives**

1699. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to use liquefied natural gas - Gas turbine Electric Locomotives (GTEL) and is set to float a tender for the supply of GTEs, a viable alternative of trains running on clean fuel;