

Developing private sidings in railway land

4161. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any policy which allows private companies to develop private sidings on railway land;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the zone-wise details of private sidings on railway land developed so far and approved for development in the last eight years;
- (d) whether this policy is uniformly adopted by all zonal railways; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) At present, development of Private Siding on railway land is not permitted.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.
- (d) This policy is uniformly applicable on all the zonal railways.
- (e) Does not arise.

Derailments due to fractured tracks

4162. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that fractured tracks were behind most of the train derailments in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have been unable to effectively tackle the problem of track fractures; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During 2010-11, 2011-12 and

2012-13, the total number of consequential derailments were 80, 55 and 49, respectively. Out of these, derailments on account of rail fracture during 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 were 7, 11 and 12, respectively.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Railway is effectively tackling the problem of rail/weld fractures. For controlling the weld fractures, Alumino Thermic welding is being minimized and more and more flash butt welding is being done. Many improvements in Alumino Thermic welding have already been done like compressed air petrol preheating and three piece moulds. For controlling the rail fractures, continuous improvements in chemistry of rails are being done.

Railway Out Agencies

4163. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI:

SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway Out Agencies handling railway cargo and goods in Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States;

(b) the mode of hiring/selecting such Agencies and the terms and conditions on which they are hired/selected, Agency-wise and year-wise;

(c) the duration for which and the dates since when each such Agency is hired/selected; and

(d) the dates when such selection/hiring was last made and the future selection/hiring/commissioning of Railway Out Agencies is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) There is one Railway Out Agency in the State of Jammu and Kashmir at Srinagar awarded to M/s N.D. Radha Kishan and Co. in the year 1919 by Northern Railway for Parcel and goods traffic. There is no out agency for handling railway cargo and goods in North Eastern region.

(b) Appointment of Out Agencies is done in a transparent manner following due procedure laid down from time to time.

(c) The contracts for Out Agency are not being awarded for an indefinite period. The usual limit is 3 to 5 years with a clause for termination in the event