

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Transportation capacity augmentation, improvement of services including their quality and safety of passengers are all priority areas of the Railways.

(b) No, Sir. However, at major stations, Indian Railways have outsourced cleanliness related activities like mechanized cleaning, rag picking, garbage disposal, one time cleanliness etc. on contract basis to improve the cleanliness standards at railway stations. Public toilets at major stations have been brought under the 'Pay & Use' scheme with the participation of the private sector.

Measures taken following elephant deaths on railway tracks in North Bengal

2319. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken following the rise in deaths of elephants on railway tracks in North Bengal;
- (b) the funds allocated for diversion of trains away from elephant corridors; and
- (c) the time-line for completion of diverted railway tracks in vulnerable spots of elephant corridors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The measures taken to curb the elephant deaths on railway tracks in North Bengal include imposition of speed restrictions, clearance of vegetation on the side of railway track, provision of signage boards to pre-warn the train drivers, sensitizing train Drivers and Guards, keeping railway track free from food waste that attracts elephants, flow of communication from forest official to railway control, construction of under passes between Chalsa and Nagrakata station, construction of two ramps between Madarihat and Hasimara station, construction of girder bridge between Gulma and Sevok station to prevent the entry of elephants into deep cuttings, rail fencing between Sevok and Bagrakot station etc.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to divert railway tracks in vulnerable spots of elephant corridors. As such, no funds have been allocated for such purpose.

Receipt for sale of food stuff in trains

2320. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: