

(c) As per extant policy, process for selection of General Managers is initiated in advance. However, appointments are sometimes not finalized in time due to unforeseen administrative factors.

#### **Licences for stalls and trolleys**

‡3138. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether licences have been issued for stalls and trolleys by Railways to religious and social organizations in addition to commercial agencies for selling their publications;

(b) whether no such licences have been issued to Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Christian, Jain and Parsi religious minority organizations for selling their publications;

(c) whether facility to sell their publications has been provided only to some particular religious institutions; and

(d) if so, whether it will be ensured under proposed new policy to issue licences for selling of books on the principles and sources of inspiration of social justice, in addition to the books of all religions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Licenses have been issued by Railways as per extant policy to Philanthropic and Social organisations. Initial allotment of these stalls is for a period of five years. The eligibility/principles criteria for allotment are (i) the philanthropic and social organizations must have their own publication of books and periodicals (ii) Such organization should be registered as a Society or a Trust or a Company (iii) Certificate of registration of the organization with Income Tax Department regarding its registration under section 12(A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (iv) Gazette Notification (for Section 3 5AC) or Exemption Certificate (for Section 80G) from the Income Tax Department.

Licences have been given to philanthropic and social institutions who fulfilled the above mentioned eligibility criteria, subject to availability of space.

#### **New railway zone in Seemandhra area**

3139. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated any action on establishment of a new railway zone in Seemandhra area, and other issues as provided in the Andhra Pradesh

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‡ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Reorganisation Act, 2014, and also as was assured by the then Prime Minister on the floor of Rajya Sabha on 20th February, 2014 during passage of the Bill; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) A committee of Senior Officers from Railways has been constituted to examine the point nos. 8, 10 and 11 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, pertaining to the Indian Railways. Before taking a decision on the recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry has asked the Committee to consult the various Stake holders including the Members of Parliament, State Governments, etc.

#### **Privatization and modernization of passenger services**

3140. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister while flagging off first passenger train from Meghalaya to Assam has announced for privatization and modernization of passenger services at railway stations better than airports as most travellers by rail are poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof and response of Government thereto along with the details of stations identified in first phase;

(c) whether privatized and modernized shopping outlets, luxury hotels and restaurant would be within reach of the poor people; and

(d) if so, how Government would provide these services to poor passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister spoke on the lines of modernisation of some railway platforms and privatisation with a view to generate income and enhance services at railway stations. He further said that railway platforms should be better than airports in view of the fact that it was used by the very poor amongst others.

(b) to (d) It was announced in Railway Budget 2014-15, to develop at least 10 major stations of Metro Cities and important junctions to international standards on the lines of newly developed airports. Six stations, viz., Habibganj (Bhopal), Chandigarh, Bijwasan (New Delhi), Shivaji Nagar (Pune), Anand Vihar (Delhi) and Surat are entrusted to Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC). Gandhinagar station