

(b) and (c) Slums near the track cause bottlenecks in train operation and track maintenance and thus affect the safety of trains and passenger. The slums near the track are also a safety hazard to the slum dwellers. However, specific data related to train accidents due to slums and killing of slum dwellers is not maintained by the Railways.

(d) Housing being a State subject, resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) of persons living on Railway land is the responsibility of State Government. As such, Railways do not have any policy for resettlement and rehabilitation of the slum dwellers.

Chemist stall policies

2704. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether chemist stall policies are different for various zonal railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether beverages, eatable and packaged drinking water are allowed in chemist stall/corner in Western Railway, Central Railway and other zonal railway too; and

(d) the zone-wise details of number of chemist stalls/corners and items permitted for sale therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Replacement of old coaches in Kerala

2705. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that most of the coaches used by Railways in Kerala are old and in dilapidated condition which have exceeded their prescribed life span of twenty five years and the repair facilities currently available at Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam are not sufficient; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken for replacement of old coaches in a phased manner and enhancement of repair facilities in Kerala?