

(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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Coaches used by Railways are within the prescribed life span and adequate repair facilities are available at Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam coaching depots.

(b) Does not arise.

**Proposal for railway university in Telangana**

2706. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to set up four railway universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the aims and objectives of the proposed universities ;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up railway university in Telangana; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Ministry of Railways has decided to establish one University on Indian Railways, at present, by upgrading National Academy of Indian Railways, Vadodara and by taking the existing Centralized Training Institutes and other training institutes under its umbrella. The University would award Degrees and Diplomas in various technical and non-technical areas related to the working of Railways.

**Projects for diesel and electric locomotive units**

2707. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has now decided to set up two separate projects for diesel and electric locomotive units;

(b) if so, whether the aforesaid proposals were pending for the last four years; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any difference of opinion over the bidding process;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to resolve the disputes; and

(e) by when the final decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard?