

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?

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

Electric Locomotive Factory at Madhepura, Bihar

For selection of Joint Venture partner for setting up of Electric Locomotive Factory, Madhepura, bidding process was commenced in Feb' 2010 and bidders were pre-qualified in May' 2010 through International Competitive Bidding (ICB). Bid documents were issued to the shortlisted bidders. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 01.05.2013 approved the proposal of Ministry of Railways to cancel pre-qualification carried out earlier during the year 2010 and to start the bid process afresh due to change in the scope of work. Bidders have been shortlisted through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) on 15.05.2014 and Request for Proposal (RFP) for inviting financial bids, has been issued on 27th February, 2015.

Diesel Locomotive Factory at Marhowra, Bihar

For selection of Joint Venture partner for setting up of Diesel Locomotive Factory, Marhowra, bid was opened in July, 2010 through International Competitive Bidding (ICB). Bid documents were issued to the shortlisted bidders. The Cabinet in its meeting held on 01.05.2013 approved the proposal of Ministry of Railways to cancel pre-qualification carried out earlier during the year 2010 and to start the bid process afresh due to change in the scope of work. Bidders have been shortlisted through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) and Request for Proposal (RFP) for inviting financial bids, has been issued on 11th March, 2015.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Royal trains running into losses

2708. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing six royal trains are running into losses and even failing to recover their operational costs;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, train-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rationalise the high tariff of these trains and also to popularise these trains through lucrative packages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Presently, Indian Railways operate 5 luxury tourist trains