

(Palace on Wheels, Royal Rajasthan on Wheels, Deccan Odyssey, Golden Chariot and Maharajas' Express) in association with State Tourism Corporations/Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). The policy of charging these trains by Indian Railways entails no loss to Indian Railways. Palace on Wheels is operated on a revenue sharing basis with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation and other similar trains are operated against payment of haulage charge by respective State Tourism Corporation/IRCTC.

(c) The tariff of luxury tourist trains is decided by respective State Tourism Corporation/IRCTC. Marketing of these trains is also undertaken by respective State Tourism Corporation/IRCTC. In order to make these trains more popular, from time to time, respective State Tourism Corporation/IRCTC take steps like additional commission/discount to travel agents, participation in travel marts, advertisement/publicity in media etc.

Use of unutilised lands around railway stations

†2709. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to use the unutilized land lying around the railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan prepared by Government to take back the land belonging to Railways around Jaynagar Railway Station as people have encroached the said land and constructed their houses on it and are living therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The Railway is contemplating to use vacant railway land around Railway stations for development of the stations on "as is where is" basis on concession basis. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources.

(c) There are some soft encroachments and one hard encroachment measuring a total of about 270 sqm. near Jaynagar Railway station. Notices for eviction have been issued to the encroachers in case of soft encroachments and for hard encroachment. The case is *sub-judice*.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.