

**Procurement in railways**

247. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Shri E. Sreedharan in his latest report has stated that if procurement is decentralized, Railways could save ₹ 10,000 crore annually;
- (b) if so, the action Government proposes to take on the said report;
- (c) whether there is rampant corruption in procurement of items in Railways;
- (d) if so, the measures taken to eradicate corruption in railway procurements; and
- (e) the procurement policy of Government of India and the reasons for not following the Government's procurement policy by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Shri E. Sreedharan after scrutinizing current practices and procedures followed at the Board concludes that improving and decentralizing the system with empowerment and accountability shall effect annual economy to the tune of Rupees five thousand crore in stores procurement and equal amount in works contracts.

(b) The Final Report of the Committee has been submitted on 11.03.2015. A Sub-Committee has been set up to evaluate the recommendations and suggest a framework for implementation sequence duly taking into account the practical aspects.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise. However, Railway has already implemented e-procurement system for its procurement activities ensuring total transparency at all the stages. Vigilance Organisation also exists at the levels of Zonal Railway/Production Unit as well as Railway Board, to take necessary measures in this regard, as and when required.

(e) The procurement policy of the Government of India is followed by Railways.

**Illegal encroachment of railway land**

248. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway land measuring about 1000 hectares is under illegal encroachment in various parts of the country including Delhi, if so, the details of such land under encroachment in Delhi;

(b) whether such encroachments have been causing serious operational and other problems, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Railways thereto;

(c) the measures taken by Railways to remove encroachments; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to allot railway land to disabled persons for commercial purposes to enable them to earn their livelihood and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) About 930 hectares of railway land which constitutes only 0.20% of the total railway land is under encroachment in various parts of the country including Delhi. In Delhi, 59.88 hectares of railway land is under encroachment.

(b) and (c) At certain locations, encroachments cause bottlenecks and safety hazards in train operations and difficulties in track maintenance. Encroachments are also a nuisance to travelling public besides a bottleneck to create new infrastructure.

Railways carry out regular surveys of encroachment and take action for their removal. If the encroachments are of temporary nature (soft encroachment) in the shape of jhuggies, jhopries and squatters, the same got removed in consultation and with the assistance of Railway Protection Force and local civil authorities. For old encroachments, where party is not amenable to persuasion, action is taken under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 (PPE Act, 1971) as amended from time to time. Actual eviction of unauthorized occupants is carried out with the assistance of State Government and Police. During last three years about 70.38 hectares of encroached land has been retrieved.

(d) The vacant Railway land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), in interim period, for commercial development wherever feasible through transparent open competitive bidding process in which disabled persons among others can also participate.

#### **Increasing the number of coaches in trains**

249. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to increase the number of coaches in trains from the existing 24 to 26; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to provide more accommodation to the travelling passengers, augmentation of load of identified trains from 24 coaches to 26 coaches has been announced in Railway Budget 2015-16.