

(b) whether Government has any plans to set up similar lounges at capital cities of Mumbai and Ahmedabad, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) An Executive Lounge with value added services at a charge, has been set up at New Delhi railway station through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Services offered are wifi, soft beverages, meals, recliners, Newspaper and magazines, train information display and announcement, TV, wash and change, toilets and urinal, computer with internet and printing/scanning facilities etc.

(b) IRCTC has been entrusted the work of setting up Executive Lounges at 48 other locations, including Mumbai Central, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Bandra Terminus and Ahmedabad railway stations.

#### **Multiple security agencies for security to Railways**

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

(a) whether Government is aware that involvement of multiple security agencies like GRP, RPF, State police, etc. in providing security to Railways causes a lot of discomfort to passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for involvement of multiple security agencies for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure seamless policing and security to Railways network by giving adequate and absolute powers to RPF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police (GRP), a separate wing of State Police responsible for prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order over Railways. Besides sharing 50% cost on GRP, Railways, through the Railway Protection Force (RPF), are also supplementing efforts of States for strengthening of security in station premises and trains. In addition, concerned District Police is responsible for security of railway tracks, bridges and tunnels. As a result of the presently prevailing three tier security system of RPF, GRP and District Police over Indian Railways, issues concerning coordination among these agencies may sometime occur, which may cause discomfort to passengers, especially with regard to registration of cases.

(c) To ensure effective and seamless passenger security over Indian Railways, a proposal for amendment in the RPF Act, 1957 has been moved by the Ministry of Railways with the concurrence and approval of the Ministries of Law and Justice and Home Affairs to empower RPF to register and investigate passenger related criminal offences in passenger area. Comments of States have been solicited on the proposed amendments in the RPF Act. Comments have so far been received from 25 States. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has recently conveyed certain observations on the above proposal. Matter is under consideration in the Ministry of Railways.

#### **Semi high-speed train services**

449. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to introduce semi high-speed train services between various cities in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any routes are being considered in the Delhi-Kalka and Delhi-Amritsar sectors, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) It has been decided to introduce Semi-High Speed train services on 160 kmph on New Delhi-Agra Corridor.

(b) An agreement has been signed with French Railways (SNCF) on 50:50 percent cost sharing basis to carry out feasibility study for upgrading speeds to 200 kmph on Delhi-Chandigarh Section of the Delhi-Kalka Sector.

#### **Wi-Fi facility at railway stations**

†450. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had promised to provide Wi-Fi facility at several important railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, names of the stations where this facility has been made available and by when this facility will be made available at remaining railway stations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Initially, the Wi-Fi services have been proposed to be provided at 400 railway stations covering almost all 'A1' and 'A' category stations,

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.