

(b) It has been decided to set up through IRCTC, Executive Lounges at Ahmedabad and Vadodara railway stations in Gujarat.

#### **Solar-powered locomotives**

2248. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have initiated steps to run solar-powered locomotives on main-line routes to reduce dependence on fossil fuels;

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government to utilize solar energy for traction needs of Railways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Concession to domestic tourists in luxury trains**

†2249. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering upon giving concession in fares to domestic tourists boarding luxury trains;

(b) if so, whether any step has been taken by Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Concessions to domestic tourists on luxury tourist trains are offered by respective State Tourism Corporations/Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Presently, only IRCTC offers concession on its train Maharajas' Express to domestic tourists by way of a discount of 50% to the second tourist sharing the cabin with a fully paid adult tourist, on select departures. Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, though offers no specific concession on Palace on Wheels and Royal Rajasthan on Wheels to domestic tourists, equivalent Indian National Rupee (INR) tariff for Indian Passport holders is fixed by taking the exchange rate as ₹ 60 per US\$ irrespective of actual exchange rate, thereby insulating them from the fluctuation in exchange rate.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.