

Increasing non-fare revenues

2821. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, in a move to increase non-fare revenues, Railways are in talks with e-commerce companies for on-board sales of their merchandise in reserved compartments;
- (b) whether this move will help in curbing the presence and movement of unauthorised and illegal vendors/hawkers on board; and
- (c) whether Railways are also keen to invite bids from private cab aggregators to tap the train passenger market and use space outside the railway stations, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways are exploring avenues for increasing non-fare revenue from multiple sources, including e-commerce and cab aggregators.

Land under encroachment for Sengottai-Punalur gauge conversion project

2822. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the land required for Sengottai-Punalur gauge conversion project is still under encroachment, due to which, this project is still pending, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether it is also a fact that instead of fully retrieving the railway land under encroachment and pursuing the project, Government is heading with the project with the available land, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Encroachments affecting gauge conversion work of Sengottai-Punalur line have been removed. Out of this, track linking of Punalur-Edaman and Bhagvathipuram-Sengottai sections has been completed and work on balance section has been taken up.

Train accident at Kanpur

2823. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for the major accident that took place in Kanpur on 20th November, 2016;