

Ease of access for physically challenged/senior citizens

3468. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds would be required to enable ease of access for the physically challenged/senior citizens with access to ramps, escalators and/or elevators across the country; and

(b) the update on the number of stations that have standard ramps at entry points/escalators and elevators for easy access?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Provision of amenities at stations, including those for differently-abled/senior citizen passengers is a continuous process. The expenditure on provision of differently-abled passenger-friendly amenities is generally funded under Plan Head – ‘Passenger Amenities’. Adequate additional funds, if required, are made available to Zonal Railways for such works, depending upon availability and inter-se priority of works. An amount of ₹ 1838.28 crore (Budget Estimate) has been allocated under Plan Head – ‘Passenger Amenities’ for the current financial year 2016-17.

Standard ramps for barrier-free easy access have been provided at about 1780 Railway stations. In order to facilitate easy movement of elderly and differently-abled passengers, as per the existing guidelines, ‘A-1’ category stations qualify for provision of escalators/elevators while ‘A’ category, ‘C’ category and stations of tourist importance qualify for provision of escalators under ‘Desirable Amenities’. So far, 316 no. of escalators at 129 stations and 178 no. of lifts at 79 stations have been provided across Indian Railways.

Allotment of land in Bihar for agriculture

†3469. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have allotted railway land from Samastipur to Muzaffarpur and Hajipur to Barauni *via* Bachhwara in Bihar during last five years;

(b) if so, the total area of land allotted for agriculture work; and

(c) the amount of income Railways received due to this, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) From Samastipur to Muzaffarpur and Hajipur to Barauni *via*

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.