

Improvement of amenities and modernisation of railway stations is a continuous process and funds as per availability and requirement are allocated for providing amenities at railway stations.

In order to seek participation of private sector, Railway has also decided to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on 'as is where is' basis, for redevelopment by inviting proposals from interested parties with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial potential of vacant land and air space at these stations. Guidelines have been issued to zonal railways in this regard. Proposals for redevelopment of stations through above method are yet to be invited.

Employees belonging to OBC category in IRCTC

1240. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of employees from OBC category in IRCTC in the year 2014-15?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): There were 277 employees from OBC (Other Backward Classes) category in Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) in the year 2014-15.

Construction works in railways under MGNREGA

1241. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to undertake construction works in Railways under MGNREGA, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether any such proposal has been sent by Railways to the Ministry of Rural Development, if so, the response of that Ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Railways have already identified certain railway works, which can be undertaken under MGNREGA as under: (i) construction and maintenance of approach roads for level crossings; (ii) developing and cleaning silted water-ways, trenches and drains along track; (iii) construction and maintenance of approach road to railway stations; (iv) repairs of earthwork to the existing railway embankments/cuttings; (v) clearing vegetation growth; and (vi) activity of plantation at extreme boundary of railway land, under MGNREGA.