

(c) whether Government would review/relook into these projects and take up necessary steps for their implementation; and

(d) 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 (d) Based on demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives and Railway's own requirement, projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands.

As Railways has a large shelf of ongoing projects with limited overall availability of funds, the available funds are thinly spread out and funds to each project are allocated every year depending on the total budget outlay, progress made in each project and relative priority. Further, execution of every railway project does face other impediments like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, cutting of trees, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies etc. However, Indian Railways have no plan to shelve long pending projects.

#### **Privatisation of railways**

4118. SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to privatise Indian Railways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no plan to privatise Indian Railways. However, outsourcing of certain facilities like cleaning, pay and use toilets, retiring rooms, parking, etc. is done on need based manner to improve efficiency.

#### **Complaints against private catering companies**

†4119. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the complaints received by Railways against private catering companies for charging more than the prescribed prices and violation of guidelines during the last three years, year-wise;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.