

equipped with 3 phase propulsion equipment from Integral Coach Factory, Chennai and trade during 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Railway track from Bhubaneswar to Konark

2372. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Odisha has sent a proposal to the Ministry for laying down a railway track from Bhubaneswar to Konark on equal cost sharing basis; and

(b) if so, the decision that has been taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received from the Chief Minister of Odisha conveying Government of Odisha's decision to bear 50% cost of the project for laying of new line from Puri to Konark (32.6 km.) considering the tourism potential of Golden Triangle of Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark. However, since land required for the project has not been offered by the State Government, Government of Odisha has been requested to provide land free of cost for which no reply has been received from the State Government.

Privatization of railway stations

2373. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has privatized the maintenance of railway stations, including the stations situated in the State of Tamil Nadu, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of private entities to whom maintenance of railway stations has been entrusted so far; and

(c) the details of responsibilities that have been fixed on private entities while managing the maintenance of railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Maintenance of railway station involves a number of activities like repairs, cleanliness, upkeep of station buildings, passenger amenities like water, platform shelter, foot over bridge, escalator, toilets etc. At some stations, Indian Railways have outsourced certain activities/services like cleanliness, operation of Pay and Use toilets, parking, catering etc. to private firms on contract basis from time to time. However supervision and overall responsibility regarding maintenance of railway stations remain with Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.