

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The demand pattern on Indian Railways is not uniform throughout the year and it varies during the peak and lean seasons. The demand for travel surges especially during the peak season like during summer holidays, festivals, etc. The average occupancy of reserved trains on Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Mumbai sector during the Financial Year 2017-18 (upto November, 2017) was more than 100%.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail is the only High-Speed rail project sanctioned by the Government. Feasibility study for New Delhi-Varanasi-Mughalsarai-Howrah High-Speed corridor has been taken on hand. Sanction of High-Speed rail projects is tied to feasibility assessment, financial viability and availability of sundry.

Low rates for goods transportation

1425. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry plans for low rates for the goods transportation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present there is no such proposal. However, evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of freight structures is an on-going process.

Change in land possession policy

1426. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made major change in land possession policy for railway projects it proposes to undertake;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for arriving at this conclusion, which is considered as a major and important one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) The total land available with the Railways is 4.76 lakh hectare out of which 4.25 lakh hectare is utilized for Railways' operational purposes and allied usages leaving 0.51 lakh hectare as vacant land.