

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.

For execution of railway projects like new lines/doubling/tripling/Gauge conversion/yard remodeling/Railway Production Units etc., Railways acquire the land as per provisions of prevalent Act governing land acquisition. However, available vacant land is also used for such projects to the extent possible. As such, there is no change in land possession policy for Railway projects.

Generation of electricity from Solar and Wind Energy

1427. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to generate a total of 1000 MW of electricity through solar and 200 MW through wind energy in the coming years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways will play an important role for the country to achieve reducing 35 per cent of its carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways are also aiming to reduce its non traction use of electricity through efficient electrical usage at stations and offices, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways proposes to harness 1000 Mega Watt (MW) solar power and 200 MW wind energy by the year 2020-21 which will contribute to some extent towards reduction in carbon emission.

(c) Indian Railways is to provide LED lights at all Railway stations and buildings to reduce non-traction use of electricity.

Availability of Bio-toilets in all trains

1428. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bio-toilet facilities are available in all types of passenger trains and all coaches of trains, including general class coaches;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railways had given responsibility to private agency/agencies to clean the coaches of trains, including toilets; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?