

(c) whether Bengali, the language of the majority of the people of West Bengal, will be incorporated in the Kolkata Metro Railways commuters' Smart Cards;

(d) if so, the time-bound details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The present version of Smart Cards in circulation since 2011 does not have text in Bengali.

(b) When the new Automatic Fare Collection(AFC) System started its operations in 2011, the inherent complexity of usage and business rules demanded that a full side be dedicated for instructions to users. Being an integral part of the national carrier, it was mandatory to include Hindi and English following Official Language Act. Accommodating Bengali was also not feasible considering the printable content length and the miniscule print area (85 mm x 55 mm).

(c) to (d) Based on the six years of experience it is considered that the users are now fully accustomed to the instructions contained on the Smart Card. Hence, action has already been started to cut short the instructions contained to accommodate Bengali language as third language along with Hindi and English on Smart Card. The very next lot of Smart Cards will have texts in tri-lingual form *i.e.* in English, Hindi and Bengali, and will be made available at the booking counters from first week of May, 2018.

(e) Does not arise.

Rail route for carrying coal from Korba railway yard to Balco plant

†4616. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail route used by Balco (Vedanta), District Korba, Chhattisgarh for carrying coal from Korba railway yard to Balco plant;

(b) the details of ownership of the said rail route and if the ownership is with the Government, whether it gets the fare/charges for the same; and

(c) whether Government/administration has any agreement with Balco for transporting material *via* the said rail route?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The rail route used for carrying coal to the plant of Balco (Vedanta), District Korba, Chhattisgarh from Korba Railway yard is 4.8 KM single line non-electrified section.

(b) This line is under ownership of Balco.

(c) No, Sir.

Facility of escalators at railway stations in Odisha

4617. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations in the State of Odisha and how many are major and how many are minor among them;

(b) whether Government has proposed to provide escalators in railway stations which are visited by more than 25,000 people; and

(c) if so, how many railway stations in Odisha will be provided with the escalators along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Total number of stations in Odisha is 287. As per categorisation of stations on Indian Railways, stations have been clubbed into 3 groups *i.e.* Non-Suburban Grade (NSG), Suburban Grade (SG) and Halt Grade (HG). Further, these groups have been put in grades ranging from NSG(1-6), SG(1-3) and HG(1-3) respectively based on passenger earnings and outward passengers booked at a station. The category-wise number of stations in Odisha is as under:

Category	NSG-1	NSG-2	NSG-3	NSG-4	NSG-5	NSG-6
	0	2	8	6	35	181
Category	HG-1		HG-2		HG-3	
	1		25		29	

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways has decided to provide escalators at all NSG (1-3) and SG category (earlier 'A-1', 'A' and 'C' category) stations with heavy foot fall, depending upon the feasibility and availability of resources. However, relative priority for providing escalators would again get decided based on footfall over different