

(d) whether Government is considering to link the Aadhaar number with EVMs?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) The Election Commission has stated that doubts of the political parties about the credibility of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were cleared in a meeting held on 12th May, 2017. The Commission informed the political parties that all future elections will be mandatorily held with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) units. The Commission is of the firm view that use of VVPAT units along with EVMs would bring utmost transparency and credibility in the EVM-based voting system. Use of VVPAT units would conclusively put to rest all misinformed doubts and misgivings regarding EVMs.

(c) A total of 3,82,876 Ballot Units and 2,51,650 Control Units were purchased in the year 2013. Further, order for 13,95,306 Ballot Units and 9,30,716 Control Units has been placed in the year 2017. The supply of these units is in progress. The average life of EVMs is 15 years. There is no separate life/validity for any parts of the machines.

(d) No, Sir.

Revenue generation by luxury trains

*429. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many luxury trains are running below capacity and hardly have been generating the revenue to meet their own working expenses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Presently, Indian Railways operate 5 luxury tourist trains namely Palace on Wheels, Heritage Palace on Wheels (started on 29.12.2017), Deccan Odyssey, Golden Chariot and Maharajas' Express in association with State Tourism Corporations / Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Palace on Wheels, Heritage Palace on Wheels and Golden Chariot are operated on a revenue sharing basis whereas Deccan Odyssey and Maharajas' Express are operated on haulage charge model. The detailed performances of these trains during last 3 financial years are:

Financial Year	Number of Trips operated	Number of Passengers travelled	Occupancy %	Revenue earned (in Cr. ₹)	Profit/Loss (in Cr. ₹)
Palace on Wheels					
2014-15	35	2024	56	35.71	(+) 9.54
2015-16	35	1739	48	33.47	(+) 7.59
2016-17	33	1373	40	27.11	
Deccan Odyssey					
2014-15	16	405	29	5.10	(-) 9.13
2015-16	23	631	33	5.60	(-) 11.90
2016-17	25	643	32	9.51	(-) 13.17
Golden Chariot					
2014-15	11	336	34.7	5.47	(-) 2.71
2015-16	9	231	30.2	4.74	(-) 3.15
2016-17	11	336	34.7	5.49	(-) 4.05
Maharajas' Express					
2014-15	34	1229	57.42	47.58	(+) 6.88
2015-16	29	1013	51.68	45.79	(+) 3.82
2016-17	31	894	39.31	41.38	(-) 2.89

Promotion of luxury tourist trains is the responsibility of respective train operating tourist corporations/IRCTC. In order to make these trains more popular, from time to time, respective State Tourism Corporations / IRCTC take steps like additional commission/discount/incentives to travel agents/tourist, participation in travel marts, advertisement / publicity in media etc. However, Indian Railways in order to make operation of these trains financially viable, permitted Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) and Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) to run Heritage Palace on Wheels and Golden Chariot on revenue sharing basis *vide* Board's letters dated 17.11.2017 and 31.01.2018 respectively. In addition, policy of haulage charge for the luxury tourist trains has also been liberalized and existing haulage charges have been reduced by 50% flat in March 2018 for promotion of tourism. Further, Indian Railways has waived off penal interest on existing outstanding for RTDC amounting to ₹37.96 Cr. and KSTDC for ₹3.17 Cr.