

(b) The Government of India had decided that Kilometerage Allowance and related allowances of the Running Staff should be decided through bilateral discussions with the Federations and further with the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance. After consultations with the Federations, a proposal is being considered for approval by the Competent Authority to be further referred to Ministry of Finance for concurrence.

(c) No, Sir. The serving running staff would be getting arrears of the difference of the revised rates of the Running Allowances from the date of effect of all allowances as finally decided. The retirees are also not affected as they do not earn running allowance.

(d) A proposal is being considered by the Competent Authority for approval. Thereafter, the proposal will be referred to the Ministry of Finance seeking their concurrence.

Renting out railway stations for wedding functions

†2698. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to rent out its less busy stations for marriage functions and other programmes;

(b) whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the railway stations would be chosen for such types of functions, along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. However, at stations where traffic is very low, Zonal Railways may explore the possibility of using station areas for organizing public functions as non-fare activity.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise.

Coaches manufactured by rail coach factory at Kapurthala

2699. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of coaches manufactured by Rail Coach Factory at Kapurthala in Punjab, during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to expand the factory to cover more spare parts used in rail bogies; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala (RCF) manufactured Integral Coach Factory (ICF) designed passenger coaches, Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) designed passenger coaches, Self Propelled Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) coaches, Pantry Car coaches and Power car coaches etc. during the last three years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Rail eco-tourism and Nilgiri Mountain Rail Service

2700. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is preparing any scheme for rail eco-tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent for Nilgiri Mountain Rail service and the amount of income earned during the last three years along with the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to compensate the loss being caused to this heritage service; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Presently, there is no separate scheme/plan regarding Rail eco-tourism on Indian Railways. However, certain eco-tourism destinations like Ooty, Munnar, Thekkady, Thenmala, Courtallam, Mudumalai etc. are covered as part of tour packages operated by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

(c) The amount spent for Nilgiri Mountain Rail Service and the amount of income earned by Indian Railways during the last three years is as under:—

Period	Earnings (D in crore)	Expenditure (D in crore)
2015-16	1.89	22.34
2016-17	1.99	26.74
2017-18	1.82	28.00

(d) and (e) Nilgiri Hill Railway is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Indian Railways operates Nilgiri Mountain Rail Service for facilitating tourists of this