

Train operation by private companies

†723. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to hand over responsibilities of train operations to private companies;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to hand over the operations of goods trains to private companies along with passenger train; and

(c) the details of work of Railways which have been delegated to private companies at present, the number of complaints received regarding poor quality of work and the details of mechanism adopted for their redressal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to privatise any area of operation of Railways. Participation of Private Sector has been allowed in construction and maintenance of Railway lines under various models of Participative Policy such as Non Government Railway, Joint Venture, Build Operate and Transfer, Customer Funding and Annuity. In all these schemes, responsibility of trains operation and safety certification rests with Indian Railways. However, outsourcing of certain facilities like cleaning, pay and use toilets, retiring rooms, parking etc. is done on need based manner to improve efficiency. In case of any deficiency, the mechanism of redressal as per the contract is invoked.

Water vending machines at railway stations

724. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of water vending machines installed by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC);

(b) whether IRCTC plans to install a water vending machine at every station;

(c) whether it is a fact that the installation of water vending machines has considerably reduced the use of plastic bottles, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the plastic cups at the functioning vending machines have been fully replaced by paper cups?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has installed a total number of 1995 Water Vending Machines(WVM) at around 700 major Railway stations across the country consisting primarily of A-1, A, B and C category of stations. Installing Water Vending Machines (WVM) at every station is not financially viable.

(c) Yes, Sir. Most of the passengers are bringing their own containers to refill water dispensed from Water Vending Machines. The use of disposable cups for dispensing 300ml water from Water Vending Machines has further reduced the use of plastic bottles, resulting in saving of an estimated 2150 MT of plastic used for plastic bottles during the year 2018-19.

(d) Yes, Sir. The use of plastic cups at the functional vending machines has been fully replaced with paper cups.

Pending railway projects in Chhattisgarh

†725. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the shortage of funds and other technical reasons Chirmiri-Barwadih rail line in Chhattisgarh along with other projects are pending since long time;

(b) if so, the details of the last three years, project-wise;

(c) whether Government has not allocated sufficient funds for the pending rail projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) No Sir, completion of projects depends upon several factors including, complete handing over of encumbrance free land by the State Govt., forestry clearances, shifting of utilities etc.

Survey for new line between Barwadih-Chirmiri (Ambikapur) (182 Km) was conducted in year 2010-2011 at a cost of ₹ 1104.50 crore with Rate of Return (ROR) of 8.61%. Further, the then Planning Commission was requested (March 2012) to accord 'In Principle' approval to the work of new line between Barwadih and Ambikapur (182 Km) at a cost of 1104.50 crore. Out of total project length of

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