

- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the places; and
- (e) whether Government has made arrangements to avoid accidents at such identified places?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only two persons died during last three years due to the collision of trains on railway tracks.

- (c) to (e) Do not arise.

**Development of suburban railway network in Bengaluru**

2346. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways and the Government of Karnataka have reached an agreement on the use of railway land for the development of Bengaluru's suburban railway network;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the project has been prepared; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As of now, alignment of Bengaluru Suburban network is largely designed to pass through Railway land. This matter is mutually agreed.

- (b) Total land requirement for the project is 355.28 Hectare (ha.) as under:—

(i) Railway land	—	250 ha.
(ii) State Govt. land	—	34.69 ha.
(iii) Private/homestead land	—	70.59 ha.

(c) Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the project has been prepared once. The same is under revision and updation to prioritise suburban corridors as instructed by Government of Karnataka (GoK).

- (d) DPR is under revision.

**Revenue loss due to passengers opting for air travel**

2347. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan for privatisation of Railways, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether many upper class train tickets have become more expensive than flight tickets since the introduction of flexi fare and whether Government has undertaken any study to find out about the revenue loss, if any; and

(c) the details of the maximum fare of Rajdhani first and second class and how it would compare with flight ticket for the same journey?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal to privatise Railways.

(b) and (c) The fare of upper class train tickets have a upper limit based on the distance. They cannot be compared with the airfare, as they do not have a upper limit. Additional earnings upto November, 2018 on account of implementation of Flexi fare is around ₹ 1836 crores. The concept of flexi fare has been introduced in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Trains with effect from 09.09.2016. Under this scheme, the fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold subject to maximum of 1.4 times in classes in Second AC, Sleeper, Second sitting (reserved), AC Chair Car and 3rd AC Class. Flexi fare is not applicable in Ist AC and Executive Class of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Trains.

**Programmes/schemes for ensuring hygiene and  
cleanliness at trains and stations**

2348. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the fresh measures undertaken by Government to provide necessary facilities in Railways for comfortable travel and other programmes/schemes to ensure overall hygiene and cleanliness in Railways; and

(b) whether Railways have taken note of lack of hygiene and sanitation at the platforms and in running trains and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir. To ensure comfortable journey, maintenance of hygiene and cleanliness is a continuous process and every endeavour is made to keep the stations/platforms and trains in clean condition. Major initiatives taken by Indian Railways (IR) towards improvement of cleanliness of stations, tracks and in running trains are as follows:—

- (i) Introduction of mechanized cleaning process, award of rag picking/garbage disposal contracts at stations. Rag picking from railway tracks is also being done.