

(c) and (d) The above identified investments aim at transforming Indian Railways into one of the best in the world.

New trains to Kerala

3911. SHRI K. J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Trains that have been started to Kerala during the last five years;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the coaches in trains operating for Kerala are old coaches; and

(c) whether Railways would start a Varanasi-Trivandrum train on urgent basis?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Indian Railways do not run trains on State-wise basis as Railway network straddles across State boundaries. However, between 01.04.2014 and 30.06.2019, 12 pairs of Mail/Express and passenger trains have been introduced, which on originating/terminating basis, serve stations located in the State of Kerala.

(b) No, Sir. It is ensured that coaches that have completed their prescribed service life, are not allowed for passenger service on Indian Railways, including on trains operating in Kerala.

The age analysis of coaches running in Kerala based trains shows that 60% of the coaches are less than 15 years of age. The useful life of passenger coaches is 35 years for Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) type coaches and 25 years for Integral Coach Factory (ICF) type coaches.

(c) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal. However, introduction of trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic demand, availability of resources, etc.

Handing over of operation of Tejas express to private operators

†3912. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to hand over the operation of Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express to private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the trains other than this which are proposed to be handed over to private sector; and

(d) the details of the new facilities to be provided by private operators in this train and whether the fare of the train would be under the jurisdiction of the Ministry or private operators?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) No, Sir. At present, no such proposal is under consideration. However, with a view to providing world class services to travelling passengers, Indian Railways are examining various options, including private/public sector participation in the operation of passenger carrying trains. The details and modalities in this regard have not been formulated, so far.

Laying of new rail line from Azamgarh to Sagri

†3913. SHRI SAKALDEEP RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey had been conducted by the Ministry for laying of new railway line from Azamgarh to Sagri via Jiyanpur, Dohrighat, Madhuban, Belthara Road, Sikanderpur, Maniyar, Bansdih, Sahatwar, Bakulha Ghat and to Suraimanpur;

(b) whether laying of the said new railway line on the basis of said survey is under consideration of the Ministry;

(c) if so, by when the work of laying of the said rail line would begin; and

(d) if not, whether Government would consider to include this work in its new action plan on priority basis for its execution?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Redevelopment of Matunga property of railways

3914. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether MoU has been signed between RLDA and DRP-SRA to redevelop Matunga property of Railways;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.