

**Re-allocation of railway officers to zonal levels**

2208. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways is planning on re-allocating its officers to zonal levels based on the report of the Committee headed by Bibek Debroy in 2015;

(b) the reasons for restructuring the Railway Board;

(c) the details from the eighteen zonal centres; and

(d) the measures being taken to maintain regular accountability of the Railway Board and the zonal centres?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) An exercise has recently been undertaken to rationalise the strength of senior officers in Railway Board by re-organising and re-assigning work of organised Railway Services' posts in Board's Office. As a result of this exercise, 50 posts of officers of the level of Junior Administrative Grade and above belonging to different Railway Services were identified and transferred out of Railway Board's Office for operation on Zonal Railways/Production Units/Training Institutes etc.

(d) Zonal Railways and Railway Board are assigned target for Key Performance Indicators and their performance is regularly monitored.

**Improvement of facilities through privatisation**

2209. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning for privatisation of some prestigious superfast trains in the country, the details thereof;

(b) the areas where privatisation would help improve existing facilities in these trains for the benefit of passengers, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it would lead to retrenchment of railway employees, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways have constituted a Group of Secretaries (GoS) with a term of one year, *inter-alia*, to advise on the terms and conditions to permit private passenger train operators