

to operate trains with world class technology over Indian Railways network. The GoS has, so far, held four meetings. Further modalities in this regard have not been finalized.

- (c) No, Sir. It would not lead to retrenchment.

#### **Privatisation of trains and train routes**

2210. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number or routes that have been privatised so far and expected to be privatised in the near future;
- (b) the number of private trains operating at present that have received permission and those which are awaiting permission;
- (c) the criteria followed to decide the routes for privatisation; and
- (d) the manner in which the private train operations affect the normal trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) There is no plan for privatisation of railway routes. There is a proposal to outsource the commercial and on board services of a few trains and also to permit private players to induct modern rakes to run trains on select routes with an objective to provide improved service delivery to passengers. However, the responsibility of train operations and safety rests with Indian Railways. As of now, IRCTC, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Ministry of Railways, has been permitted to operate two trains out of which one train is currently operational.

Further, Government has constituted a Group of Secretaries (GoS) to advise on the terms & conditions for private passenger train operators, which are under finalisation.

#### **Filling up of vacant safety-related posts**

2211. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to fill up safety-related vacant posts within a year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Three Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for around 1.41 lakh vacancies for various Group 'C' posts (including Level-1), mainly safety-related posts, have been notified in 2018. Recruitment process is almost completed and, as on 30.11.2019, panels of 81,083 candidates have been supplied to Indenting Railways.

Further, in 2019, another four CENs for around 1.43 lakh additional vacancies, including 1,13,474 (about 79%) vacancies for various safety-related posts, have also been notified. Recruitment process for the same is in progress.

#### **Additional funds for MGNREGA**

2212. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to pump in more funds to MGNREGA so that the scheme may become more effective;
- (b) whether more works are to be added in this; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to make MGNREGA a permanent feature?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment programme. Fund release to the States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed to making funds available keeping in view the demand for work. The Ministry seeks additional fund for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS from the Ministry of Finance as and when required for meeting the demand for work on the ground.

(b) The implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is reviewed on regular basis based on the inputs received from the stakeholders and the list of permissible works is amended in the Schedule of the Act, as and when found necessary.

(c) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005 is under implementation with the approval of the Parliament of India.

#### **Organic kitchen gardens in the National Rural Livelihood Mission**

2213. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, on the lines of Odisha Rural Livelihood Mission, Government is