

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?