

(c) Buzzing Bee plan has been implemented by Zonal Railways viz East Coast Railway, Northern Railway, Northeast Frontier Railway, Southern Railway, South Western Railway to repel the elephants in elephant corridors/elephant crossing area/manned level crossings with installation of Buzzing Bee sound instruments.

(d) A number of preventive measures are taken by Zonal Railways in coordination with Ministry of Environment and Forest which include the following:

- (i) Imposition of speed restrictions in identified locations.
- (ii) Provision of signage board to warn loco pilots about identified wild life corridors,
- (iii) Sensitization of Train Crew and Station Masters on a regular basis,
- (iv) Need based clearance of vegetation on the sides of the track within railway land,
- (v) Construction of underpasses and ramps for the movement of wild life at identified locations, and
- (vi) Provision of fencing at isolated locations.

Solar power tenders

750. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways is planning to come up with solar power tenders of 4 gigawatt (GW) soon, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways currently requires 16 billion units of electricity every year, equivalent to supplies from 13 GW of generation capacity; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways spends around ₹ 10,000 crore on electricity every year with the average per unit cost being around ₹ 6?

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

(b) In the year 2018-19, Indian Railways consumed 19.94 Billion Units of electricity (17.68 Billion Units in Traction + 2.26 Billion Units in Non-Traction), which is equivalent to 2.276 Giga Watt (GW) or 2276 Mega Watt (MW) of generation capacity.

(c) In the year 2018-19, Indian Railways spent around ₹11870 crore (₹ 10170 crore for Traction + ₹ 1700 crore for Non-Traction) on electricity. Further, the average cost of electricity for Traction is ₹ 5.75 per unit and for Non-Traction is ₹ 7.54 per Unit.

ESIC account for contract labour

751. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway contractors are required to apply and obtain an employer code from Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), get ESI account number allotted to the contract labour, ensure that the contribution towards ESI is deducted from the contract labour and the same along with contribution from the employer is deposited with ESIC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of number of contractors working under the Ministry till that and how many of them are registered with their concerned regional offices of ESIC, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Privatisation of Railways

752. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to privatise the Railways;

(b) if so, the planning for privatisation of the different wings of Railways stage by stage; and

(c) the reasons that prompted the Government to opt for privatisation of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to privatise the operation of Railways. However, there is a proposal to outsource the commercial and on board services of a few trains and to permit private players to induct modern rakes to run trains on select routes with an objective to