

(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