

(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

provide improved service delivery to passengers. The responsibility of train operations and safety certification rests with Indian Railways. Outsourcing of certain services like station cleaning, pay and use toilets, retiring rooms, parking and platforms maintenance etc. is being done on need based manner to improve cleanliness and other services.

Recruitment of 2.3 lakh people

753. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to recruit 2.3 lakh people in various posts over the next two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that, taken together with the ongoing process to recruit 1.5 lakh people, the total number of jobs up for grabs in Railways would be almost 4 lakh; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that this includes around one lakh vacancies that may arise due to retirements in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Three Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for around 1.41 lakh vacancies for various Group 'C' posts (including Level-1) have been notified in 2018. Against 02 CENs, recruitment is completed and, as on 14.11.2019, panels of around 73,500 candidates have already been supplied to Indenting Railways.

Further, in 2019, another four CENs for around 1.43 lakh additional vacancies have also been notified. Recruitment for 01 CEN is completed and, as on 14.11.2019, panels of 1519 candidates have been furnished to Indenting Railways.

Recruitment process for remaining CENs is in progress.

Further, for around 10,000 vacancies of Sub-Inspectors and Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF)/ Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF), three CENs have been issued in 2018 and recruitment for the same has been completed.

(c) A total of about 2.94 lakh vacancies for various Group 'C' posts (including Level-1) have been notified in years 2018 & 2019.

(d) Retirement (anticipated) is one of the parameters of vacancy assessment process.