

Decreasing strength of Railway employees

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to bring down the strength of Railway employees by three lakhs;

(b) if so, the Zone-wise details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Introduction of a new Sampark Kranti Express to Telangana State

746. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any representation requesting for introduction of a new Sampark Kranti Express to Telangana State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Ministry to the request and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) No representation in this regard has been received. Besides, at present, there is no proposal to introduce Sampark Kranti Express bound for the stations located in the State of Telangana. However, Secunderabad-New Delhi Sector is served by 10 pairs of express trains including the Telangana Express and a daily Rajdhani Express. Further, it has been decided to run 12721/12722 Hyderabad-H.Nizamuddin Dakshin Express as an independent service with 22 coaches which will provide additional accommodation to the passengers of Hyderabad-Delhi sector.

Strategic sale of concor

747. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to hive off the profitable PSU, Container

Corporation of India (CONCOR), the Railway's logistic arm, through a strategic sale of the Navratna PSU;

(b) whether CONCOR's container terminals are strategically located in proximity of dedicated freight corridors; and

(c) whether CONCOR currently serves sensitive security items like currency, nuclear fuel, defence-related items and would its proposed sell-off to private operators pose security problems?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has accorded 'In-principle' approval for strategic disinvestment in CONCOR.

(b) CONCOR has 75 terminals and tie-ups with 9 terminals spread all over the country based on commercial requirements. Some of these terminals are close to the Dedicated Freight Corridors.

(c) CONCOR as well as other private licensed container operators transport a wide variety of items based on the commercial demand from time to time.

Feud among loco pilots

748. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unseemly row has erupted between loco pilots of the Kota Division and loco pilots of other divisions of the Delhi-Kota section over the claim for additional kms. covered beyond the mandatory duty hours, delaying running of the trains in this section inordinately;

(b) whether loco pilots belonging to Kota Division often refuse to take along co-pilots of other divisions and refuse to provide them training to run trains on this route; and

(c) the service conditions that prevent Railways from cracking down on the erring loco pilots of the Kota Division to end the inter-division feud among loco pilots?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The balancing of kilometrage between different Zonal Railways is an ongoing process and such issues are resolved by mutually agreed sharing of subsequently introduced trains.