Surplus manpower burdening Railways

1395. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Railways, the nation's largest employer, with over 70 per cent of its operating expenses going towards wages is now finding itself burdened with surplus manpower;

(b)   whether, with the freight loadings dropping by over 8 per cent against the corresponding months last year as also its Net Tonne KM (NTKM) dipping down, there have been measures under consideration to re-deploy surplus staff in the field or in any other direct operations; and

(c)   if so, the details thereof?

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

(b)   No, Sir.

(c)   Does not arise.

Increasing occupancy of luxury trains

1396. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)   the total number of trips operated, passengers travelled and occupancy percentages of luxury tourist trains operated by Railways in the previous and current financial years, year-wise;

(b)   the details of the revenue earned by luxury tourist trains in the previous and the current financial years, year-wise;

(c)   whether the Ministry has looked into the reasons of low occupancy rates of such trains and if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   the steps taken or planned to be taken by the Ministry to attract more tourists towards the luxury trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Four Luxury Tourist Trains namely Palace on Wheels, Deccan Odyssey, Golden Chariot and Maharajas' Express are run over Indian Railways by Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC), Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC), Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) respectively.

Details Operational statistics of luxury tourist trains

Train	Financial Year	No. of trips operated	No. of passengers travelled	Occupancy percentage (%)	Revenue Earned (₹ in crore)
Palace on Wheels	2017-18	33	1498	55.00	27.59
	2018-19	33	1528	56.00	42.17
	2019-20 (Upto Oct., 2019)	11*	536*	59.00*	09.04*
Deccan Odyssey	2017-18	21	882	53	12.18
	2018-19	28	1478	66	30.05
	2019-20 (Upto Oct., 2019)	08*	263*	41*	5.16*
Golden Chariot	2017-18	08	291	41.34	2.54
	2018-19	Not run by Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation			
	2019-20 (Upto Oct., 2019)				
Maharaja Express	2017-18	28	945	40.18	42.11
	2018-19	32	1149	42.74	53.83
	2019-20 (Upto Oct., 2019)	05*	183*	43.57*	7.46*

*These Luxury Tourist Trains run only during the period September/October upto April/May every year and thus current year's data is only for the months of September/October.

(c) Occupancy of luxury trains is on the increasing trend as can be seen from the analysis of number of passengers travelled in the luxury trains in the last three years given in the above table.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposed railway station between Mulund and Thane

1397. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal for a new station on main line route of Central Railways between Mulund and Thane;

(b) if so, who proposed for this new station;

(c) whether Railways have accessed the proposal from the competent authority, if so, could Ministry submit the report to the House;

(d) whether Railways have land area required for new station and located the required piece of land and where;

(e) whether Railways is planning to acquire 14 acres of land belonging to Mental Hospital of Thane Corporation; and

(f) if so, whether Railways have to compensate Thane Municipality, if so, by what amount?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) had proposed the station. This has been sanctioned as a deposit work at the cost of Thane Municipal Corporation.

(d) and (e) The station is planned with the land given free of cost to Railways by Thane Municipal Corporation.

(f) Does not arise.

Virar-Dahanu four line in Maharashtra

1398. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: