

- (i) Delhi - Varanasi
- (ii) Delhi - Ahmedabad
- (iii) Mumbai - Nagpur
- (iv) Mumbai - Hyderabad
- (v) Chennai - Mysore
- (vi) Delhi - Amritsar.

The alignment for these corridors have yet not been finalized, as the DPR study is in progress.

#### **Shopping on wheels**

2340. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has implemented "Shopping on Wheels" in long-distance trains and if so, since when;
- (b) the response and reaction of passengers about the service; and
- (c) whether there would be any license system for unorganised vendors selling items/eatables to the railway passengers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) In order to earn revenue through sources other than freight and passenger fares, Indian Railways have issued Non-Fare Revenue policies/schemes. Full powers have been delegated to General Managers of Zonal Railways to implement the policies and they are empowered to explore various means of generating additional non-fare revenues. In this context, Western Railway has awarded a contract for on-board shopping in 2019.

(b) The passengers are availing such services and no complaints have been received by Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway.

(c) Railways do not have any license system for unorganised vendors and there is no proposal for the same under consideration.

#### **Privatisation of railway stations and passenger trains**

2341. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plan to privatise all railway stations and passenger trains in phases, if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many existing railway stations and trains have been privatised so far, the details thereof; and

(c) how many new trains have been introduced by the private companies, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for privatization of railway stations, only the lease rights for use of land/air space shall be transferred to private parties for specified periods under station redevelopment programme. The ownership of the railway land/air space shall remain with Railways. The assets created on Railway land shall revert back to Railways after completion of the specified lease period.

Indian Railways is planning to allow private participation on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in the running of passenger trains on select routes. An indicative list of over 100 origin-destination pairs for operation of passenger train services by the private entities has been uploaded to the websites of NITI Aayog and Indian Railways, along with the draft Request for Qualification and draft Concession Agreement, for seeking comments from stake holders. A Group of Secretaries (GoS) has been constituted with a term of one year, *inter alia*, to advise on the terms and conditions for operation of trains by private operators over Indian Railways network. The contours of the project and the timelines for launching of trains services by private operators are under finalisation.

(c) At present, no scheduled passenger train service over Indian Railways is being operated by Private Train Operator(s).

#### **Gauge conversion of railway track passing through Gir**

2342. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion of 71 kilometre track between Talala and Visavadar passing through Gir wildlife areas will pose danger to the Asiatic Lions;

(b) whether Government mulls retaining the metre gauge railway line passing through Gir as heritage railway line in view of its rich wildlife;