

Passenger train operation by private sector

2344. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to allow private entities to operate passenger trains on its routes;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) whether Government has completed consultations with the stakeholders in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Indian Railways is planning to allow private participation on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in the running of passenger trains on select routes. 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 GoS has held seven meetings, upto the end of February, 2020. 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 and for further consultations.

Basic amenities to contract labourers

2345. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are aware that many contractors are not providing basic amenities like clean drinking water, urinals, first aid box, medicines, etc. to contract labourers working in Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken against such erring contractors and the licences of how many such erring contractors have been cancelled in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) All basic amenities such as clean drinking water, urinals, first aid box, medicines, etc. are provided to the contract labours on their work site.