

- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response to the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Both the recognized Federations, namely, All India Railway men's Federation (AIRF) and National Federation of Indian Railway men's (NFIR) have initially represented against the decision to permit operation of passenger trains through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Thereafter, several meetings have been held with the Federations to explain the rationale behind this PPP initiative and the fact that the existing passenger train services shall not be affected by the operation of passenger train services through PPP mode. These services to be operated through PPP mode shall be additional trains and aimed at increasing the availability of train services to the public. As such, the interest of employees working for the operation of existing train services over Indian Railways will not be affected. Further, it has been decided that the Crew (Drivers and Guards) required for operation of trains through PPP mode shall be provided by Indian Railways, which shall make Railway employees a vital part of PPP train operations.

Survey regarding facilities in Railways

1566. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has conducted any survey regarding facilities being provided to the railway passengers particularly to the poor rail users in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways has recently decided to provide additional coaches and full coaches in the trains for the railways passengers particularly in those trains which are used by the lower income group; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Railways had been conducting survey through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) on passenger amenities including train and station cleanliness *w.e.f.* 01.07.2015 -24.03.2020:

One lakh calls were made every day to reserved passengers randomly for obtaining their feedback. The feedback has been discontinued since the Covid outbreak as very limited number of trains has been plying over Indian Railways. However, no survey is being conducted based on the socio-economic profile of passengers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) To cater to the travelling needs of lower income groups, Indian Railways operate Mail Express trains having General Class coaches & Sleeper Class coaches. Besides, fully unreserved services like Jan Sadharan, Janseva, Jan Nayak Express, Antyodaya Express, some Intercity trains, passenger trains are also operated by Indian Railways. Further, trains are also augmented with General Class and Sleeper Class coaches as per commercial viability and operational feasibility. Accordingly, during the years 2019-20, of the total 1490 coaches utilized for augmentation of existing services, 940 Coaches (524 Sleeper Class, 389 General Class & 27 Second Class chair car coaches) were to facilitate the passengers of lower income groups.

Augmentation of services and coaches are an ongoing activity based on various parameters including demand, commercial and operational viability.

1567. [The question was Cancelled.]

Expansion of MGNREGS

1568. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to increase budgetary allocation beyond ₹40,000 crore COVID-19 relief package for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for 2020-21;

(b) if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there are plans to increase the number of work days under MGNREGS;

(d) if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there are plans to increase the wage rate under MGNREGS;

(f) if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether there are plans to increase unemployment allowance under MGNREGS; and

(h) if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?