

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 48
ANSWERED ON 23.07.2021

OPERATION OF TRAINS BY PRIVATE COMPANIES

48# DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering handing over the responsibility of operation of trains to private companies;

(b) if so, whether the operation of goods trains along with passenger trains is proposed to be given to private companies; and

(c) the type of railway works being carried out by private companies at present, the number of complaints received related to the poor quality of their works and the mechanism adopted for their disposal?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 48 BY DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA ANSWERED ON 23.07.2021 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING OPERATION OF TRAINS BY PRIVATE COMPANIES

(a) & (b) About 5 crore dropped waiting list passengers were observed in 2019-20 due to lack of capacity. To meet this gap, Indian Railways is already increasing production of Vande Bharat, Tejas, LHB, Vistadome etc types of coaches in trains. In addition, Indian Railways has invited bids for private participation to induct 151 trains (rakes) over 12 clusters through Public Private Partnership (PPP). The existing passenger train services shall not be affected by the operation of train services through PPP mode and these will be in addition to the existing train services. The operational infrastructure like track, signaling, Over Head Equipment (OHE), stations etc will remain with Indian Railways and will be used to run these trains. The Crew (Drivers and Guards) required for operation of trains through PPP mode shall be provided by Indian Railways, which shall make Railway employee a vital part of PPP in passenger train operations project.

These trains shall offer services better than existing Rajdhani/Shatabdi types of trains which will include improved passenger comfort, efficient air conditioning with automatic temperature and humidity control, superior interiors and toilets, friendly access to differently abled (Divyangjan) passengers, GPS enabled passenger announcement system for on-board announcements for station arrivals, safety announcements etc.

Indian Railways will get haulage charges of ₹ 512.31 per train km for 384 meter length (equal to 16 LHB coach) train for 2019-20 to be escalated annually and will also get a share of gross revenue collected by the private entity alongwith other charges as specified in the concession agreement.

The project entails an investment of more than ₹ 30,000 crore and associated benefits in terms of employment generation. The project encourages 'Make in India' initiative of Government of India as the private entity is required to manufacture around 75% of the trains domestically which is likely to encourage setting up of rail coach factory in India. The private

entity is also required to set up a maintenance depot for each cluster and provide on-board services which would generate additional employment.

As far as freight trains are concerned, at present, Container trains are being operated by licensed Private Container Train Operators under the policy adopted in 2006. Indian Railways already has provisions regarding private investment in General Purpose, Special Purpose and Automobile Carrier wagons. Stake Holders have been procuring and plying these wagons on customized circuits to meet their requirements.

(c) Ministry of Railways engages private companies for a number of works like construction of buildings and structures, laying of track, laying of Over Head Equipment (OHE), installation of signaling and telecommunication systems, maintenance of assets, management of services etc. The complaints against poor quality of the work can be made with the executing agency of the Railways and the private companies are penalized for any deficiency or poor quality of work as per terms and conditions of the contract. The complainant can also lodge complaint on Indian Railways Complaint portal- Railmadad (<https://railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in/madad/final/home.jsp>), at stations, Divisional and Zonal Head Quarters and Vigilance wings of Railways etc. The complaints are investigated and necessary penal action is taken against the private company as per the terms and conditions of the contract.
