

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:105
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2002
PRIVATISATION OF RAIL LINES
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to offer privatisation of some loss-making railway lines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the justification behind taking such decision;
- (c) whether such railway lines have been identified;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the interest of employees has been protected before taking such decision;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps, the Government have taken to make these lines remunerative before taking the decision of privatisation of these lines?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF STARRED QUESTION No.105 BY SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL AND SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.03.2002 REGARDING PRIVATISATION OF RAIL LINES

(a) to (g): The Standing Committee on Railways (2001) on "Demands for Grants 2001-02 of the Ministry of Railways" in its 9th Report recommended giving the operation of some of the uneconomic branch lines on experimental basis to private operators on a long-term concession, with a view to reduce the losses. Accordingly, Ministry of Railways started the process of preparation of the bid document for concessioning. Such railway lines are being identified. Necessary approvals will be taken at an appropriate stage. Interests of the employees will be taken care of while preparing the terms and conditions. To reduce losses on these lines, Ministry of Railways have taken various cost-cutting measures, such as closure of shifts, introduction of "one- train-only system", etc.