

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:118
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011
PRIVATE PARTICIPATION
Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has urged the Railway Board to consider the entry of private players in various activities so as to instill competition, increase facilities and enhance the overall performance of the Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Planning Commission has also emphasised the Railways to prepare a road map for introduction of private competition in the Railway Passenger Transportation System; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 118 BY SHRI SIVASAMI C. TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.03.2011 REGARDING PRIVATE PARTICIPATION.

(a) & (b): No, Madam. Ministry of Railways has been undertaking a number of initiatives for encouraging private investment. A policy for private container train operation was introduced way back in 2006. Under this policy, 16 operators (including Container Corporation of India Limited) have already taken license and trains are being operated. Ministry of Railways is already doing tourist train operations in association with the State Tourism Corporations and Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). IRCTC is free to forge Joint Ventures (JV) with private parties. In addition, Ministry of Railways have also considered Public Private Partnership (PPP) route for setting up factories for rolling stock/components, etc. Dankuni-Sonnagar sector of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor has been identified for execution through PPP route.

In the recent years, a host of specific business oriented policies have been evolved by the Railways to encourage private investment in the specified areas of infrastructure, rolling stock or service provision, namely, Railways' Infrastructure for Industry Initiative (R3i), Private Freight Terminal (PFT), Special Freight Train Operators (SFTO), Automobile Freight Train Operators (AFTO), Automobile and Ancillary Hubs, Kisan Vision (Cold Chains), New Catering Policy, Rail Connectivity to Coal and Iron Ore Mines (R2C1).

Planning Commission in the Mid Term Appraisal, while taking note of these initiatives have suggested to expedite them.

(c): No, Madam.

(d): Does not arise.