

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1850
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011
LUXURY RAILWAY SERVICES
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) proposes to tie up with Rail Europe to attract customers from various countries to avail luxury train services like Palace on Wheels in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of such luxury trains being run in the country at present;
- (d) whether the Railways propose to run more such trains in the country including West Bengal; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Rail Europe has integrated the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)'s Tourism web services for one such train, i.e. Deccan Odyssey luxury tourist train.
- (c): At present, five luxury tourist trains are being operated on Indian Railways in association with respective State Tourism Corporations / IRCTC, which are Palace on Wheels, Deccan Odyssey, Golden Chariot, Royal Rajasthan on Wheels and Maharajas' Express.
- (d) & (e): Luxury tourist trains are introduced at the instance of State Tourism Corporations / IRCTC, subject to market potential and operational feasibility by the Railways. There is a proposal from Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board (PHTPB) for running a luxury tourist train.