

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2453

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2016

Free Pilgrimages for BPL Senior Citizens

Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar; Jayavardhan Dr. Jayakumar

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and various State Governments have entered into an understanding for jointly bearing the expenses of pilgrimages undertaken by the BPL senior citizens;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount to be incurred by IRCTC for this purpose and the number of special trains to be run by IRCTC for this purpose;
- (d) whether IRCTC has any plan to extend the services to all the religious sites across the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a): No, Madam. However, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) and various State Governments have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for operation of State Special Tourist Trains for elderly residents of the respective States i.e. Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh on Full Tariff Rate basis. Expenses of the State Special Trains are borne by respective State Government on the basis of MoU, itinerary and duration of the trip.

(b) to (e): Do not arise.
