

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1701
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.09.2020**

NEW PRIVATE TRAINS

1701. SHRI REBATI TRIPURA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to start new private trains;**
- (b) if so, the details of funds allocated and used, mechanism put in place and nodal officials appointed in this regard, State-wise; and**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) to (c) Ministry of Railways (MoR) has invited applications for investment and induction of modern rakes over select routes through Public Private Partnership (PPP) to provide world class services to the passengers. As part of this initiative, MOR has issued 12 Requests for Qualification (RFQs) on 1st July, 2020 for operation of passenger trains over approximately 109 origin-destination pairs (divided into 12 clusters) through PPP on Design, Build, Finance and Operate (“DBFO”) basis. The routes are spread across the entire Indian Railway network which cut across state boundaries and the list is available in the public domain namely, <http://www.indianrailways.gov.in/IndicativeRoutesfor12clusters.pdf>. The responsibility of train operations and safety certification rests with Indian Railways.

At present, no funds have been allocated for operation of passenger train services through PPP mode. Under the initiative, the private operators, selected through a transparent bidding process, are to invest around ₹ 30,000 crore in the project clusters for inducting modern rakes and for setting up maintenance depots.

The project clusters are not organized state-wise and the identified train services cover the Indian Railways network straddling across the boundaries of the States. Accordingly, state wise nodal officers are not contemplated for the project.
