

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1305  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004  
PALACE ON WHEELS  
Patil Shri Prakash V.;Rajendran Shri P.

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the present status of 'Palace on Wheels' projects in different States;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to start 'Palace on Wheels' like tourist trains in other States particularly in Kerala to tap tourism potential in the States;
- (c) if so, whether any proposal in this regard has been submitted by State Governments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any feasibility study in this regard has been made; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof and the time by which the same will be implemented?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a): In Rajasthan, a luxury tourist train – the "Palace on Wheels" is being run in collaboration with the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) and in Gujarat, the "Royal Orient Express" is being run in collaboration with M/s Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. (TCGL). In Maharashtra, a new luxury tourist train viz. the Deccan Odyssey has been launched in collaboration with the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC), this year on 16th January 2004. An MoU has also been signed for running of such a train in Karnataka.

(b): A memorandum was received, on 18th June 2004, from the Government of Kerala for announcing a luxury tourist train (linking Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala) in the Union Railway Budget 2004-05.

(c) to (f): No, Sir. However, the State Governments viz. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have been advised on 2nd July 2004 to send a comprehensive proposal along with a feasibility study indicating the Rate of Return, Cost/Revenue sharing methodology etc. for consideration of the Railways. The replies from the concerned State Governments are awaited.