

Not privatising Railways, only seeking private investment in the sector: Piyush Goyal

Railway minister Piyush Goyal has ruled out privatising the national transporter till BJP is in power and said the government was exploring ways to bring in larger private investments in the sector.

“There is no question of privatisation of the Indian Railways,” Goyal said at a public event on Wednesday. “There is absolutely no proposal on the table and while we are in the government, there is no question of privatisation. That’s a complete no-no and a red line.”

Goyal said the national transporter was only looking to engage with the best technology from across the world. “What we are looking at is ways and means to increase investment flow in the railways through public-private partnerships.”

The railways has recently allowed private operators to run passenger trains on select routes and is identifying routes where 150 more trains can be run by private operators.

As part of its 100-day agenda, the Indian Railways had planned to corporatise its seven rolling stock production units to achieve better efficiency.

Goyal said the railways was engaging with the private sector as part of a metamorphosis that it is going through and it could team up with the private sector for initiatives like advertising and CSR.

TRAINS FOR FILM PROMOTIONS

The Indian Railways on Wednesday launched a campaign called ‘Promotion on Wheels’ that will serve as an additional source of revenue for the national transporter.

The railways have approached major production houses with upcoming films to use these full-tariff-rate trains to facilitate pan-India publicity and promotion of films across the length and breadth of the country, the ministry said in a statement.

The Indian Railways catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will be the nodal agency for handling these trains.

The production houses can come up with their new ideas or travel routes as per their requirements to promote their films along with their star cast and crew.

“Railway’s novel idea of promotion on wheels: A special train will be travelling from Mumbai to Delhi on 16th-17th October, to promote the upcoming film, Housefull 4, along with the film’s team,” Goyal tweeted. “I encourage more filmmakers to use this route to reach out to the masses,” he added.

