

Go Mumbai Smart Card

†110. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is contemplating to start “Go Mumbai Smart Card” in Western Railway too, on the lines of Central Railway;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be started; and

(c) whether the railway passengers of Mumbai are going to be benefited by it, and if so, the manner in which they would be benefited along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not feasible to stipulate the exact time frame for starting it. However, the system is likely to be started as and when the modalities are completed by the services provider and the testing of the system has been done.

(c) It would benefit passengers of Mumbai Suburban Railway as they would get an alternative mode of ticketing system. They do not have to stand in the queue for purchasing ticket for every journey. Once they have a Smart Card, the fare for journeys performed are automatically deducted on showing the card to the system provided at the stations.

Railway coach factory at Kanjikode

111. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the status of setting up of a proposed Rs. 5,000 crore Railway coach factory at Kanjikode in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): There is no proposal to set up Rail Coach Factory at Kanjikode in Kerala. However, there is a proposal to set up rail coach factory at Palakkad in Kerala. Detailed Project Report for setting up of coach factory at Palakkad is under consideration of Ministry of Railways where after approval of Planning Commission and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs shall be sought before it is put up for Parliamentary approval.

Connecting small villages by Konkan Railway

†112. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konkan Railway has contemplated to provide the facility of Konkan Railway to the small villages located in Konkan area of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the work has been started on this; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) Do not arise.

Building of world class railway stations with Chinese assistance

113. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to involve China to build world-class city railway stations in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, *Inter-alia* indicating those that are proposed to be build on the ECoR system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Government of India and Government of People's Republic of China whereunder the Chinese Railways have agreed to undertake design of two Railway stations for development into world class stations. Bhubaneswar of East Coast Railway is one of the two stations identified for the purpose. The other is Baiyyappanahalli Railway station near Bangalore.

Reservation of Group 'C' and 'D' posts in N.F. Railway

114. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that to curb the acute unemployment problem of the North-East and to give priority to the local educated unemployed youth of North-East in service the various organizations of North-East are demanding 100 per cent reservation of service in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in N.F. Railway;

(b) whether Government is considering to adopt any such policy on this; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Extant instructions provide that the vacancies to be filled up in Group 'C' and 'D' categories are given wide publicity including publication in the Employment News and leading national and local dailies etc. and all those who apply against such notifications are considered for recruitment on the Railways. This procedure is in conformity with the Constitutional provisions regarding equality in opportunity to all in the matter of employment under the Central Government and guidelines issued by Department of Personnel and Training (which is the Nodal Department) pursuant to the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Wagon factory in Kerala

115. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up a wagon factory in Kerala as a joint venture with Steel Industries Kerala Limited;