

(b) if so, whether in addition rolling stock with higher capacity is being inducted to improve throughput;

(c) whether Railways are going to plan induction of 250 diesel locomotives and 220 electric locomotives for the next year; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government has been able to obtain it and to what extent it has helped Railways to improve its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways had planned to acquire 20,000 wagons during the year 2008-09.

(b) Order for higher capacity stainless steel wagons have already been placed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since higher carrying capacity Stainless Steel wagons are being manufactured for the first time, there were some initial teething problems which have adversely affected the wagon production. However, production of these wagons is expected to stabilize soon which would enable Railways to meet its' demand and also improve its' functioning.

Gauge conversion of Viramgam-Rajkot railway line

2146. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to convert Viramgam-Rajkot railway line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no gauge conversion work in Viramgam-Rajkot railway line as this section is already a broad gauge line.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Development of DMIC

2147. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat regarding rail development for various linkages for overall development of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) along the proposed Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) of the Railways; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) As per information obtained from Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce

and Industry, Government of India, M/s Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board (GIDB), a Government of Gujarat entity has forwarded a proposal for infrastructure augmentation including rail connectivity in Gujarat for the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with GIDB in July 2008 for preparation of perspective and development plan for each investment node jointly and also to facilitate development of select early bird projects. DMICDC has already selected in October 2008 an International Consultant, M/s Halcrow Group Limited for preparation of Development Plan for the identified Investment Regions in the State of Gujarat.

Development of stations in Gujarat

2148. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Kalupur railway station in Ahmedabad has become the busiest junction in terms of passengers and vehicular traffic;

(b) the remedial steps being taken by Government in order to ease the vehicular and passenger influx at Kalupur railway station in Ahmedabad; and

(c) whether Government is considering to develop the Sabarmati railway station as terminal station for passenger and goods trains to avert heavy vehicular and passenger rush at Kalupur railway station on the same line as in the cases of Secunderabad, Baroda and Hazrat Nizamuddin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is an increase in passenger traffic by 1.81% for the current year (April-October) at Ahmedabad station (Kalupur).

(b) The parking facilities have been increased to cater to the increasing vehicular traffic. Stoppage of most of the Mail/Express trains are provided at Maninagar and Sabarmati i.e. stations adjacent to Ahmedabad to mitigate the passenger/vehicular traffic at Ahmedabad.

(c) Sabarmati has already been developed as an alternate freight terminal for Ahmedabad and the existing Meter Gauge line has been converted into Broad Gauge to handle the increasing passenger traffic.

Public-private partnership for creation of new infrastructure

2149. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 1,00,000 crores are likely to be generated from public-private partnership route, to expedite the creation of new railway infrastructure; and

(b) if so, whether the normal gestation period of around 10 years has been kept in view of planning, execution and utilization of infrastructure so that India emerges as a developed nation by 2020?