

(b) whether any discretionary quota is available to the Railway Minister for appointment of persons to these grades;

(c) if so, the total number of persons appointed to the Grade 'D' post regular and daily wages during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the number of persons so appointed to these grades from Bihar particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Various modes of appointment to Group 'D' posts on the railways are direct recruitment from open market, Scouts and Guides quota, Sports quota, Compassionate Ground appointment and engagement as Substitutes, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (d) Do not arise.

Railway projects in Maharashtra

3159. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few projects of laying new railway lines, doubling the tracks and widening of existing lines in Maharashtra are pending;

(b) whether Government is aware of the request made by the leaders of political parties and the State Government of Maharashtra for providing adequate funds for ongoing railway projects in the State; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for providing funds for the railway projects in Maharashtra as requested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. However the projects are being progressed as per availability of resources.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The funds for projects have improved considerably over last few years due to certain steps taken for getting additional funds through public private partnership, State sharing, funds for National Projects from Central Government exchequer, Defence funded and other projects under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. State Government of Maharashtra has also agreed to share 50% cost of some of the projects.

Dilapidated condition of boggies in Kerala bound trains

3160. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kerala bound trains have very old and damaged compartments;

(b) if not, the details of date of manufacture of each compartment used currently in Kerala Express, Trivandrum Rajdhani, Mangala Express, Millennium Express, Kochuveli