

(d) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Introduction of new trains and speeding up of trains is a continuous process over Indian Railways. During the current financial year 42 trains serving southern Capitals like Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore have been made superfast and 82 more trains have been speeded up so far. Similarly, 38 new trains have been approved for introduction in the current financial year in the southern region.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Passenger coaches of all trains are replaced based on their life and condition. Such condemned coaches are replaced by newly manufactured coaches on all Zonal Railways.

Electrification of Bangalore-Mumbai Line

1916. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of electrification of Bangalore-Mumbai Line;

(b) the total investment being contemplated in rail projects in Karnataka;

(c) what is the growth of rail passenger traffic from and into Bangalore over the last three years;

(d) what is the plan to upgrade the various railways stations in Bangalore city in view of huge growth in rail travel; and

(e) whether there is any plan to make Bangalore city railway station a model station as per the Ministry's plans for creating model stations all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) On Bangalore-Mumbai rail line, Mumbai-Pune is already electrified and electrification of Pune-Wadi-Guntakal-Gooty section has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd., based on the project's bankability. However, at present, there is no proposal to electrify Gooty-Bangalore rail line.

(b) Cost of ongoing projects falling partly/fully in Karnataka is about Rs. 7562 crore and an expenditure of Rs. 2656 crore had been incurred upto March 2006.

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) The rail passenger traffic from stations in Bangalore during the last three years i.e. from April 2003 to March 2006 has shown a growth of 30%.

(d) It is planned to modernize and upgrade the passenger amenities at Bangalore City and Bangalore Cant. Yeshwanthpur and Krishnarajapuram stations of Bangalore City.

(e) Yes, Sir. Bangalore City has been nominated as a model station.

Ring railway service in Delhi

† 1917. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make the ring railway service in the Capital, Delhi, more systematic and competent with a view to improve environment and minimise crowds on the road;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated for the development of ring rail service in Delhi during the last three years and till date; and

(d) the details of achievements made in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No separate funds for development of ring rail service in Delhi have been allocated during the last three years and till date.

(d) Does not arise.

Bridge on Dombivali Railway Station

1918. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the stipulated date of completion of the bridge joining east to west side of Dombivali railway station of Central Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that the work is delayed because of irregularities committed by the contractor;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi