

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Mahindra World City Developers Ltd have undertaken modernization of Parnur railway station on Southern Railway at their own cost for augmenting passenger amenities for rail users who are predominantly employees of various industries/organizations in the adjoining area developed by them. This work has not been undertaken under PPP. The arrangements and cleanliness at Parnur station are considered adequate.

(b) and (c) Appraisal and approval of PPP projects on Railways are done in accordance with the procedures laid down by Ministry of Finance. In addition, in certain areas such as operation of container trains, operation of special freight trains, liberalization of wagon investment scheme, investment in port connectivity and other works etc., Ministry of Railways have notified policies based on which potential investors can participate in these schemes.

Shortage of manpower in security wing

1439. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a serious manpower shortage in security wing of Railways;

(b) if so, whether it has become one of the reasons for the increasing number of train accidents; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to fill up these vacancies with a time bound programme?

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

(c) Arising of vacancies and filling of posts is a continuous process. Vacancies arise due to normal retirement, voluntary retirement, deaths, promotions, etc. Recruitment process to fill up the vacancies in the RPF, as also the 5134 posts sanctioned recently, is already underway.

Expansion and modernization of railway stations in Maharashtra

1440. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals were announced during the last two rail budgets for expansion and modernization of railway stations in Maharashtra under Model and Modern station schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the work on the said projects is likely to be started and completed, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, 378 stations, including 50 stations in the State of Maharashtra were identified during 2009-10 for development as Adarsh stations. Further, 94 stations, including 6 stations in the State of Maharashtra, were announced during the Railway Budget 2010-11 for development as Adarsh stations.

Wagons for transportation of salt from Kutch region of Gujarat

1441. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has represented to the Ministry to allot wagons two days in a week as ODR days for transportation of salt from Kutch region in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Western Railway has nominated two days in a week *i.e.* Wednesday and Saturday for allotment of rakes as per oldest date of registration of indents at all stations on Western Railway which includes stations in Gujarat State.

Lack of railway network in North-Eastern states

1442. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that all the North-Eastern States have no railways; and

(b) if so, the plans Government has to link them with each other by railways?