

already sanctioned as a part of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Trichendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar gauge conversion project Gauge conversion of this section is targeted for completion during 2010-11.

Proposal for construction of Madurai-Tuticorin new line passing through Tuticorin District is being processed for requisite clearances.

Infrastructural facilities for stations in Tamil Nadu

3533. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps will be taken by Government to provide infrastructure facilities for the Palayamkottai railway station, Tirunelveli district and Armuganeri railway station, Tuticorin district, Tamil Nadu on an urgent basis; and

(b) whether necessary funds will be allocated in the budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Palayamkottai and Armuganeri are 'E' category railway stations and they have been provided with amenities as per norms commensurate with present level of traffic. In addition, works pertaining to construction of platform fencing and toilet have been taken up at Palayamkottai station. Similarly, works pertaining to extension of Platform No.I to hold 24 coaches at Armuganeri station have been taken up. Necessary funds are available to carry out these works.

Hiring of out agencies

3534. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the current Railway Out Agency engaged in carriage of various Railway goods from Jammu Tawi Railway Station to different destinations in J&K first hired by the Railways for this purpose;

(b) whether such agencies are hired by open bids or tenders and when is the next such exercise expected; and

(c) the number of agencies/companies participated in such bids/tenders for this particular job, when the current Out Agency was hired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Setting up of wagon factory at Manoharabad, Andhra Pradesh

3535. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a wagon factory with an expenditure of more than Rs. 1,600 crores is to be constructed at Manoharabad in Telangana area of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan proposed to be executed and by when the plan is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Private investment in freight marketing

†3536. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways has held discussion with industrial sector with an aim to attract private investment in freight marketing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the outcomes of this discussion; and

(d) by when Government will take a decision in this regard?

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

(b) Two meetings were held with trade and industry on 12.11.2010 and 24.11.2010.

(c) and (d) The issues raised by industry are *inter-alia* criteria for calculation of freight rebate, period of freight rebate, permission for maintenance of rakes at private sidings, inclusion of joint

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.