

- (a) whether it is a fact that many railway projects in various parts of the country have been shelved due to shortage of funds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of such projects that fall in the State of Maharashtra; and
- (d) the remedial measures Government proposes to take for revival of these rail projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Condition of trains passing through Kerala

1376. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of long-distance trains passing through the State of Kerala that have been provided with new coaches, in the last two years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Southern Railway is dumping old and dilapidated coaches for use in the trains originating from Kerala, including important trains such as Rajdhani, Kerala Express, Mangala Express etc.;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the curtains and blankets provided in the AC coaches of the trains, including Rajdhani Express, passing through Kerala are not regularly washed or cleaned; and
- (d) the action plan of Railways, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) Long distance trains usually run across state boundaries and no such separate state wise data is maintained.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The curtains and blankets provided in the AC coaches of all the trains of Indian Railways are washed on a regular basis as per the prescribed guidelines laid down in this regard.

(d) To further improve upon the quality of washing of curtain and bed rolls including blankets, Railways are in the process of setting up of Mechanized laundries at major coaching

depots. 10 of such laundries have already been commissioned and action is underway for the remaining. Regular Inspections/Checks are also carried out at various levels to monitor the quality of curtains and linen supplied to the passengers in trains and punitive action is taken wherever warranted.

Setting up of National High Speed Rail Authority

1377. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to set up the National High Speed Rail Authority and propose to run trains at 300 Kilometres per hour on selected routes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):
(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has decided to set up a National High Speed Rail Authority (NHSRA) for planning, standard-setting, implementing and monitoring these projects and a proposal for approval of the Government is under consideration.

Ministry of Railways has also decided to conduct prefeasibility studies for six selected corridors for running of High Speed Passenger trains at a speed of 300 - 350 kilometer per hour.

Laying broad gauge line from Dehradun to Rohru

1378. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had received a representation from PMO forwarded to Secretary, Railway Board in the month of June, 2011 regarding construction/approval for laying broad gauge railway lines from Dehradun to Rohru in Shimla district; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Railways in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.