

Technical modernisation of railways

†2598. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is doing all possible efforts to modernise Railways technically;
- (b) whether increase in the average speed of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains to two hundred kilometres per hour and the increase in the speed of other trains is being considered by Railways;
- (c) whether any effort is being made by Railways to make signals installed in the lines fully automated with an objective of running more trains on tracks; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Modernization is a priority for Indian Railways and is an ongoing process. Requirements of modernizing railway infrastructure *inter alia* including track, signalling, rolling stock and terminals have been identified and have been proposed as a major objective of the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

(b) Speeding up of trains including Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches and better tracks.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Automatic Signalling have been provided on 2290 Route Kilometers on High Density Network of Indian Railways and Automatic Signalling works on about 1750 Route Kilometers are in progress.

Fund requirement for projects and security mechanisms

†2599. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of funds required for strengthening of development projects and security mechanisms of Railways;
- (b) whether Railways can raise this amount from its own resources; and
- (c) if so, the measures being taken for exploring the resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) As on 01.04.2011, there are 129 ongoing New Line, 45 Gauge Conversion and 166 doubling projects taken up for development/strengthening of railway network across the country requiring about Rs. 1,25,000 Cr for their completion.

Approximately Rs. 300 Cr. are required for sanctioned security projects.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.