

(b) the reasons for delay in approving the proposal of the State Government; and

(c) the present status of the proposal and by when the decision is likely to be taken by the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Requests in this regard have been received.

(b) and (c) The decision to place a particular division under a specific zone is taken on the basis of operational and administrative requirements, keeping in view the geographical contiguity of the divisions forming a zone; smooth movement of traffic operationally; to provide better control and to improve efficiency; without any regional considerations. The proposal, for attachment of Nanded Division with Central Railway, when seen in the light of the above criterion has not been found feasible.

Railway projects in Maharashtra

3073. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few projects of laying new railway lines, doubling of the tracks and widening of existing lines in Maharashtra are pending since long;

(b) whether Government is considering the requests made by Government of Maharashtra and leaders of political parties from time to time for providing adequate central funds for ongoing railway projects in the State; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take for releasing funds on priority for the railway projects in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) As on 01.04.2012, 5 new line, 3 gauge conversion and 10 doubling projects falling fully/partly in Maharashtra are in various stages of execution. ₹ 381.50 crore have been provided for these projects during 2012-13.

Railways have huge throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources. As such, the projects are progressed as per availability of resources. To expedite completion of projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like Public-Private Partnership,

funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries. To reduce delay on account of land availability, security issues, forestry clearances etc. meetings with State Government/Central Government Officials are held from time to time. Contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management, and field units have been further empowered.

Implementation of projects on cost sharing basis

3074. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mechanism has been evolved by the Ministry to implement projects on cost sharing basis with State Governments, especially with Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) For completion of ongoing new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects, State Governments are regularly being approached to share cost of construction of railway line and/or provide land free of cost for the projects passing through their respective States. As a result, various State Governments have come forward to share cost of 35 projects. Andhra Pradesh Government is sharing cost of 7 new lines and 1 doubling project.

Setting up of mega locomotive units

3075. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Railways flip-flop attitude in setting up of mega locomotive units;

(b) the reasons that Railways changed its stand from PPP mode to execute on its own;

(c) whether any consultations have been held in this regard with Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission, etc.;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the reasons that there is a deep division between Railway Board and others on this issue; and