

(c) whether there is a time-line set for the implementation of the freight corridor; and

(d) if so, whether the time-line would be adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) is 1839 kms. long and extends from Dankuni near Kolkata to Ludhiana in Punjab. Mughalsarai-Sonnagar Section (118 Kms) of Eastern DFC is being constructed through Indian Railways' resources and construction work is in progress. Ludhiana -Mughalsarai section (1183 km) of Eastern DFC is being implemented with World Bank loan. Loan Agreement for the first sector (Khurja-Kanpur, 343 km) is signed and tendering is in progress. Technical evaluation of civil construction bids is complete and financial offers are to be received in December, 2012. Construction work in Khurja - Kanpur sector will start after award of civil contract. Sonnagar-Dankuni section (534 km) of Eastern DFC is planned to be implemented through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

(b) As per Business Plan of Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL), the total traffic on the Eastern DFC is estimated at 289,708 million Net Ton Kilometre (NTKM) in the year 2036-37.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Eastern DFC is targeted for commissioning in March, 2017. The project implementation schedule and timelines are being monitored regularly to ensure timely completion of work.

Upgradation of railway stations

308. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the project 'upgradation of certain railway stations to world class' in the country; and

(b) the details of those stations that are proposed to be upgraded on the East Coast Railway system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Consultancy works for preparation of Master Plan and Feasibility report had been taken up for Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai,

New Delhi and Patna. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) namely, Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) has been set up as a Joint Venture between Ircn International Ltd. (IRCON), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways and Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), a statutory authority under Ministry of Railways, with an aim to undertake redevelopment of stations. To begin with, five stations, viz., Bijwasan (Delhi), Anand Vihar (Delhi), Chandigarh, Habibganj (Bhopal) and Shivaji Nagar (Pune) have been entrusted to IRSDC for redevelopment, in the first phase

(b) In the first phase, no station on East Coast Railway has been entrusted to IRSDC.

Station upgradation with help of Belgium Railways

309. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to seek the help of Belgium Railways for station upgradation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the stations that are proposed to be upgraded;
- (d) the details of specialization of Belgium Railways that is proposed to be used;
- (e) whether it is also proposed to get the help or technology of any other country to control train accidents in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Federal Public Service for Mobility and Transport of Kingdom of Belgium to ascertain general principles and cooperation between Indian and Belgian Railways for effective development and modernization of Railway Sector of both the countries. The cooperation programme, *inter-alia*, includes consultation and exchange of relevant information and services of cooperation for modernization of railway stations and railway infrastructure.