

Defects location on tracks

4172. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ultrasonic Fault Detectors presently being used are not advanced;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Khanna Safety Committee had recommended the purchase of German rail cars to locate the growing defects on tracks; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ultrasonic rail and weld testing machines presently being used on Indian Railways are quite advanced. These testing machines are at present analogue as well as digital types, but, most of these Ultra Sonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing machines are digital machines as digital machines are capable of data logging, saving and transferring scan to computers. Hence it has been planned to replace all analogue type of USFD testing machines available with Indian Railways by digital machines by the year 2014.

- (c) No, Sir. The Khanna Safety Committee had not recommended the purchase of German rail cars to locate the growing defects on tracks.
- (d) Does not arise.

Linking capitals of NE region States/UTs

4173. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to link all the capitals of NE region States/UTs by railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is proposed to be executed under public-private-partnership mode;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time-frame within which this action plan is proposed to be initiated and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Presently State capitals of Assam and Tripura are connected to Railway network. Projects have been taken up to provide connectivity to all NE State capitals except Sikkim.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) All State connectivity projects are planned to be completed by March, 2017 subject to availability of resources. However, difficulties are also being experienced in Nagaland and Meghalaya in respect of land acquisition.

Opening of food kiosks by IRCTC

4174. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC is planning to open its food kiosks at many metro stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IRCTC has identified stations where it wants to open its food kiosks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An MoU has been signed by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to open Food Kiosks at DMRC stations for a period of 6 years, extendable for another 6 years. These kiosks will dispense branded, sealed, pre-packed and pre-cooked food and beverages items under hygienic conditions.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. 95 stations have been identified for opening of food kiosks. List of identified 95 DMRC station for food kiosk is as under:—