

(b) and (c) Development of railway stations is a continuous process subject to availability of funds. 373 stations identified in 2009-10 and 132 stations identified in 2010-11 have been developed so far.

Status of new railway lines

2143. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry sanctioned new railway lines in 2007 on Bengaluru-Kanakapura-Chamarajanagar and Hubli-Ankola lines;
- (b) if so, the present status of these two projects;
- (c) whether the survey work in this regard has been completed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether these projects have been held up for want of any clearances from the Central or State Governments; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (f) Bangalore-Kanakapura-Chamarajanagar-Satyamangalam and Hubli-Ankola new line projects were included in the Budget 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively. In compliance to the orders of Central Empowered Committee constituted under Hon'ble Supreme Court, work on Bangalore-Chamarajanagar-Satyamangalam and Hubli-Ankola new line projects are held up.

In the case of Bangalore-Satyamangalam project, Karnataka State has agreed to provide land free of cost and also to share 50% of the cost of construction, and requested the Ministry of Railways to take up the work on non-forest area i.e. on Bangalore-Kanakapura-Chamarajanagar section. Accordingly, the project is being taken up further.

Final location survey for Hubli-Ankola new line project has already been completed. Based on its report, land acquisition papers were processed, but the project is held up as per directives of Central Empowered Committee.

Project to minimise late running of trains

2144. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has initiated a project to minimise late running of trains and improving safety on railway tracks;

(b) if so, the details of this multi-pronged strategy; and

(c) the action plan of Government to intimate passengers with reserved/confirmed tickets about cancellation of such trains during foggy seasons, in advance, to avoid any inconvenience to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Indian Railways constantly endeavors to run trains to time and to this end Indian Railways have started monitoring the punctuality of trains using Integrated Coaching Management System (ICMS) at all the three levels viz. Divisional level, Zonal Head Quarters level and Railway Board level. This system, which is integrated with Control Office Application (COA), ensures on-line monitoring of punctuality, greater transparency as also accurate data-keeping regarding punctuality of trains. In addition to these, Indian Railways also undertakes punctuality drives from time to time and counsels staff to sensitize them regarding punctuality.

Furthermore, with a view to ensure safe operations and the punctuality of passenger carrying trains, constant endeavors for Up-gradation of technology of track, rolling stock and signaling systems as also improvement in standards of maintenance of assets to reduce equipment failures, is undertaken.

Railways also maintain close co-ordination with State Governments to tackle the Law and Order problems and miscreant activities, for smooth and punctual running of trains.

(c) There is no provision to inform passengers with confirmed reserved tickets about the cancellation of trains, at present.

Cordoning of railway tracks with walls

2145. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to cordon off railway tracks with walls in Delhi area to control train accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;