

The targets for completion of projects are generally fixed every year based upon the progress of the projects, their relative priority and availability of resources.

Regular meetings are being held with the concerned Ministers and Authorities of the State of Kerala to sort out issues regarding land acquisition, permission for earth quarrying and maintenance of law & order during execution of projects.

**II. Details of Road Over and Under bridges are as under:**

At present, works of construction of 80 Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and 57 Road Under Bridges (RUBs)/subways are appearing in Pink Book 2013-14. Work of construction of 15 ROBs/RUBs could not be commenced due to non-acquisition of land by State Government of Kerala. Railway is constantly requesting State Government of Kerala to expedite land acquisition so that these 15 works can be commenced.

**Development/upgradation of congested railway stations**

2921. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted that many railway stations in the country, including in Kerala, are heavily congested leading to chaotic passenger traffic situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of such stations;

(c) whether Railways propose to upgrade/redevelop such stations;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government proposes to use the railway owned land adjacent to railway stations for the purpose;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps taken by Government to reduce congestion at the railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Railway stations are identified and classified on the basis of passenger earnings as 'A-I, 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E' and 'F'

category stations. Various amenities such as widening and extension of platforms, augmentation of foot over bridge, exits/entries of the stations, expansion of circulating area, construction of subways etc. are planned and provided as per norms based on the category of stations.

(c) to (g) Upgradation of stations has been undertaken under various modernization schemes. At present, stations are upgraded under the 'Adarsh Station Scheme'. 1050 stations have been identified for development under this scheme.

50 stations have been identified for redevelopment as world class stations by utilizing land and air space around these stations which will also take care of the aspect of congestion. Out of these, five stations viz. Anand Vihar (Delhi), Bijwasan (Delhi), Chandigarh, Habibganj and Shivaji Nagar (Pune) have been entrusted to the recently formed Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC) for redevelopment. Consultancy studies for four of these stations (excluding Anand Vihar) have been taken up by IRSDC. In addition, Consultancy studies have also been undertaken for New Delhi, Mumbai CST and Patna. Details regarding the land adjacent to stations which may be utilized for this purpose can only be known after the Master Plan for redevelopment of such Stations are finalized based on detailed feasibility studies by the Consultants and approval of local bodies.

With a view to reducing congestion at the railway stations, Indian Railways introduces new trains/special trains, augments and extends existing train services, monitors punctuality of trains and also provides stoppages at stations short of major stations, wherever feasible. However, introduction of new trains, augmentations of trains, extension of trains and provision of stoppages is on-going process and depends on various factors like operational feasibility, traffic justification, availability of resources, etc.

#### **Automobile freight train operator policy**

2922. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are working out a fresh Automobile Freight Train Operator (AFTO) policy which will open the sector for investors such as Maruti Suzuki and APL Logistic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;