

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;

(c) whether both the firms have discussed the policy with Railways and also made initial investments to enter the sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) A policy on Automobile Freight Train Operator (AFTO) Scheme was initially issued *vide* Freight Marketing Circular No. 18 of 2010 dated 19.07.2010. After interaction with the prospective logistic providers in the automobiles market, the policy was further revised *vide* Freight Marketing Circular No. 2 of 2013 dated 22.02.2013. M/s. Maruti Suzuki Ltd. and M/s. APL Logistics have applied for registration under the AFTO policy alongwith an initial application fees of Rs. 5 lacs each.

#### **Pantry car in New Jalpaiguri-Chennai Express train**

2923. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that long distance trains like New Jalpaiguri-Chennai Express have no pantry car; and

(b) if so, whether Government would provide pantry car in such trains including the aforesaid train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) As per guidelines of New Catering Policy, 2010, the attachment of pantry cars to trains is considered based on various factors such as priority of the train, (First priority to Duronto/Rajdhani then Super fast Mail/Express trains then the trains running more than 24 hours either way), commercial justification, availability of pantry cars, load limitation and other operational feasibility factors. In cases where trains are not provided with a pantry car the catering services are provided through Train Side Vending by supply of meals through static catering units from enroute stations to the passengers in trains. At present catering services through attachment of pantry cars have been provided on 285 pairs of trains including Rajdhani/long distance Duronto Express trains.

#### **Composition of workforce employed in Railways**

2924. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: