

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

(c) whether Government is proposing any measures to address the increasing number of complaints regarding food and catering services in Railways; 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) It is a continuous endeavour by the Indian Railways to provide good quality hygienic food to Railway passengers. Accordingly, a New Catering Policy, 2010 has been introduced on 21.07.2010 with a mandate for effective quality assurance programme, wherein ISO-22000 (International Organization for Standardization) standards are to be progressively implemented for major contracts/units. Supervision and monitoring have been strengthened through a mechanism put in place by deploying railway personnel, who check quality and hygiene and take corrective action in a time-bound manner apart from passenger's opinion/feedback on quality. About 34565 inspections have been carried out in the last one year April, 12 to March, 13. A centralized Catering Services Monitoring Cell has been set up in Board's office having a toll free number 1800-111-321 for prompt redressal of the passenger grievances related to the catering activities for real time assistance to travelling public. On the same pattern, Catering Monitoring Cells have been set up at Zonal and Divisional level for daily monitoring of the catering activities. Continuous monitoring through all these is being ensured. If any irregularity is found punitive actions like imposition of fine, warning and termination of contract etc are taken according to the gravity of offence/irregularity. As per extant Catering Policy, 2010, railways propose to have base kitchens in railway premises for close monitoring the quality.

Ongoing railway projects

1699. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the estimated costs and the scheduled time of completion of ongoing railway projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that it would take at least 30 years to complete pending projects if they continue to be implemented at the current pace;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes any measures to expedite completion of pending projects, and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) As on 01.04.2013, there are 156 new line, 43 gauge conversion and 169 doubling projects having estimated cost of approximately Rs. 2,43,269 crores. Due to huge throw forward and limited availability of resources, deadline for every project is not feasible to be fixed. Completion time of projects are decided annually depending upon availability of resources and progress made on individual project.

(b) 368 projects are having throw forward of about Rs.1,78,216 crore against which outlay of Rs.9,750 crore has been provided during 2013-14 which is 5.5.% of throw forward. With present level of funding, completion of ongoing projects would take long period.

(c) and (d) To expedite completion of projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like funding by State Governments and other beneficiaries, execution of projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited on Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) basis etc. Besides, to reduce delays on account of land acquisition, security issues and forestry clearances etc, meetings with State Officials at various levels are held from time to time. Field units have been empowered with further delegation of powers and the contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management.

Casualties of employees on duty

1700. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1600 people died and 8700 people suffered