

(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

injuries on duty in Railways during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has undertaken any steps towards improvement of signaling systems and safety equipments to prevent deaths and injuries of employees on duty; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Steps taken towards improvement of Signalling Systems and Safety Equipments to prevent deaths and injuries of employees on duty includes:

1. Staff working in field/track are being provided with communication equipments like VHF set, Mobile Train Communication Equipments (where MRTC commissioned) to contact with adjoining stations and learn about the position of approaching trains.
2. Project on "Gangman Warning System" using Satellite Imaging and Rail Navigation (SIMRAN) has been taken up along with IIT Kanpur. Prototype Equipment developed and is under lab testing at IIT Kanpur. In this system, a Gangman will be warned automatically about an approaching train.
3. Provision of Protective clothing.
4. Provision of insulated tools, modified test piece for testing of points, protective metallic screens in vicinity of 25 KV OHE traction.
5. Timely replacement of mechanical maintenance-intensive Signalling assets by Electronic/Electrical Interlocking System. Electronic/Electrical

Interlocking System. Electronic/Electrical Interlocking System has been provided at 5100 stations upto June, 2013.

6. Greater emphasis on training of officials in the nominated training institutes to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices.
7. Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS) eliminates 'Singal Passing At Danger' (SPAD) and over speeding. Two pilot projects of TPWS has been commissioned between Chennai Central- Gummiddipundi (50 RKms) on Sub-urban section of Southern Railway and on Delhi-Agra section (200 RKms) of North Central Railway.

Complaints regarding adulterated food

1701. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR

SHRI DILIP BHAI PANDYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received complaints that adulterated food is being served to millions of train passengers daily;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that High Court of Delhi has issued notice to Ministry of Railways, Chairman of Railway Board and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare demanding adequate measure to ensure availability of unadulterated and hygienic food to trains passengers; and (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir. No complaint of adulterated food being served to Railway passengers has been received.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The matter is sub judice in the court of Law.