

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Eastern dedicated freight corridor

2306. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have received pre-qualification applications from many global companies for the proposed Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the World Bank has agreed in principle to part finance the said Project for a stretch which is divided into three phases; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pre-qualification applications have been received from over 50 Global and Indian companies in response to tenders for civil and systems (electrification and signaling) contracts of Khurja-Kanpur and Kanpur-Mughalsarai sections of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor Project.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The part financing of the 1183 kms. Ludhiana - Khurja-Dadri-Kanpur-Mughalsarai section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor is in 3 Phases *viz.* Khurja -Kanpur (Phase 1), Kanpur -Mughalsarai (Phase 2) and Ludhiana - Khurja- Dadri (Phase 3). Loan agreement for Phase 1 has been signed and civil construction contract has been awarded. Loan agreement for the Phase 2 is targeted in 2013-14 and for Phase 3 thereafter.

Multi-functional complexes

2307. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to establish Multi-Functional Complexes (MFC) in the country through private investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has plans to establish such MFCs in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the names of such stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways have identified 196 sites for development of Multi-Functional Complexes (MFCs) at various railway stations, out of which 120 MFCs are planned for development through private investment.

(c) and (d) In Maharashtra, eleven stations *viz.*, Hazur Sahib Nanded, Manmad, Nasik Road, Shirdi, Aurangabad, Gondia, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Miraj, Shegaon, Vasai Road & Wardha are identified for development of MFCs.

Facilities for disabled persons and senior citizens

2308. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons that most of the stations across the country do not have ramps in order to make them accessible for the physically disabled;

(b) the steps being taken to address the same;

(c) whether escalators are being put in place at railway stations across the country for easier access of foot-bridges for senior citizens; 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) and (b) Provision of standard ramp with railing for barrier free entry is contemplated at all stations over Indian Railways starting with A1, A & B category stations, and to be extended to stations falling in other categories. Out of 579 A1, A & B category stations, standard ramps have been provided at station entrance at 562 stations. Ramps have also been provided at the end of platforms inter connected by pathways for ease of inter platform transfer for physically disabled people.