

- (c) Approximately 1320 passengers can travel per trip.

Chennai-Puducherry railway line

576. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of work on East Coast Railway line from Chennai to Puducherry *via* Cuddalore;
- (b) the budgetary allocation for this project in the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has finalized the alignment for this line; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Work is in preliminary stage. Final location survey has been completed. Execution would be taken up after sufficient land is made available by the State Government of Tamil Nadu to Railways.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 1.43 crore has been incurred on this project upto March, 2012.

(c) and (d) In view of operational constraint in linking this line at Perungudi station/Chennai Suburban section, it has been decided to link Cuddalore-Puducherry-Mahabalipuram section of the project with Chengalpattu to provide rail link to/from Chennai.

Funding for railway projects

577. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to involve private funds in development of railway sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of railway projects proposed under PPP mode;
- (c) the action plan to increase funding for railway projects moving at snail's pace in Odisha under East Coast Railway; and
- (d) the time-frame within which all these ongoing projects would be completed and put into operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Railways encourage private investments in building rail infrastructure. A new policy for building and strengthening rail connectivity and capacity augmentation has recently been announced. Some of the other areas where railways encourage private investments are development of Private Freight Terminals, Procurement and Leasing of Wagons, Operations of container trains, redevelopment of stations, Loco and Coach manufacturing units etc. Railways have implemented/are in process of implementation seven projects through Joint Venture route and connectivity to Mundra Port has been commissioned through pure private funding.

(c) and (d) Given the huge throw-forward of ongoing projects for which the present day cost stands at Rs. 1.47 lakh crores, State Governments (including State Government of Odisha) and other beneficiaries have been requested to come forward for cost-sharing. Ten States (not including Odisha) have already come forward for cost sharing for a total 35 railway projects. In addition to higher resource mobilization through internal generation, increase in resources through extra-budgetary measures is being attempted for enhancing the pace of progress of all ongoing projects, including those in Odisha. Prioritisation of projects has also been done to enable optimum utilization of limited resources and for facilitating smooth flow of funds to the projects targeted for completion. The precise time frame for completion of projects cannot be forecasted as the progress is dependent on availability of resources.

Compensation to Mega Block victims

†578. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who lost their lives and the number of people who got injured due to Mega Block in Mumbai in January and non-cooperation of Railways;

(b) whether Central Railway paid any compensation to the persons who lost their lives in the accident;

(c) if so, the date of payment of compensation and the amount thereof; and

(d) the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.