

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.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No loss of life or injury to any person was reported due to Mega Block and non-cooperation of Railways in Mumbai in January. However, some news items appeared in local media that 02 persons had died and a few were injured due to over crowding in trains during the said period of Mega Block.

It has been ascertained by the Central Railway authorities that the loss of lives and injury to people reported in the local media cannot be related to Mega Block on 28/29th and 29/30th December, 2012 and such incidents take place due to over crowding in trains, travelling on foot boards, leaning out of running trains and trespassing.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Development of Industrial Rail Corridor

579. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would consider the proposal for development of the dedicated Industrial Rail Corridor of Meramandali-Angul-Talcher-Chhendipada which is to be connected with 57 number of industries based on coal, integrated steel plants, power generating units, generating rail traffic of 113 MTPA and the Rail Corridor for Nayagarh-Keonjhar belt for industries based on iron ore; and

(b) whether the Ministry would consider to revise the R2CI policy at an early date to attract private investors for the industrial corridors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) There is presently no specific proposal in this regard under consideration of Ministry of Railways. Augmentation of capacity to overcome operational constraints and to meet traffic requirement is an ongoing process on Indian Railways based on justification.

(b) In supersession of the R2CI Policy, a policy to encourage private participation in rail connectivity and capacity augmentation projects has already been notified in December, 2012.