

- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether Railways have strengthened their human resources for effective implementation of above mentioned Rules in various Zones;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which Railways propose to utilise the fine collected for contravention of these Rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rules under the Railways Act 1989 have been notified under a Gazette Notification to penalize persons affecting cleanliness and hygiene at railway premises with fines not exceeding Rs. 500/-.

(c) and (d) Under these Rules, the following officials are authorised to collect fines:—

- (i) The Station Master or Station Manager,
 - (ii) An officer not below the rank of Ticket Collector of the Commercial Department or an officer of equivalent rank of Operating Department;
 - (iii) Any other official(s) authorised by the Railway Administration.
- (e) The purpose of levying fines is to reduce the activities affecting cleanliness and hygiene at railway premises. The amount of fines so received is deposited under the head 'Sundry Earnings' which is a part of the total revenue of Indian Railways.

Advantage of high-speed trains

612. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the advantages of high-speed trains over aeroplanes for medium distances of 500-700 Kms.;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any study to assess the profitability of high-speed trains;
- (c) if so, the details of the findings of this study;
- (d) whether Government has taken any further action on the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Railways is presently undertaking prefeasibility studies on seven high speed rail corridors. The assessment of the profitability of the concerned high speed corridors is a part of these prefeasibility studies.

(c) The prefeasibility study report of Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad has been accepted by Ministry of Railways and Pre-Tax Project Internal Rate of Return (IRR), a parameter of profitability is positive as per the study. On other corridors, the prefeasibility studies are in different stages of progress.

(d) and (e) The modalities of implementation of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor are presently under examination with reference to funding options. A business feasibility study is also underway by SNCF with assistance of French Government to work out a business and financial model.

(f) Does not arise.

Laying of new railway lines

613. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started laying new railway lines including Jaggayyapeta-Mellacheruvu in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise, in the Twelfth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Laying of new line between Jaggayyapeta-Mellacheruvu has been completed and the line has been opened for goods traffic. In the first year of Twelfth Five year plan, 2012-13, 2 new line projects have been taken up in Andhra Pradesh which are in South Central Railway. The projects are: (i) Bhadrachalam-Kovvur New Line and (ii) Akkanapet-Medak New Line.