

(b) As per the information received from the Registry of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, 72 Fast Track Courts were functional in the State as on August, 2013.

Telecom Testing and Security Certification Centre

*139. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had approved setting up of a Telecom Testing and Security Certification Centre to test imported equipments;

(b) whether even after a lapse of three years, Government has failed to set up such centre concerning the importance of national security, if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether Government is now considering accreditation of multiple labs under private and Government sectors to undertake testing of imported telecom equipments instead of setting up such Centre, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Sir, Department of Telecommunications has decided to set up the Telecom Testing and Security Certification Centre to develop systems, processes, adopt/develop security standards, test tools, etc., for security testing and certification of telecom equipment.

(b) Pilot lab has already been established at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangaluru to develop security standards, test processes and test tools for telecom equipment testing and security certification. The development of systems, processes, security standards, test procedures, test tools, etc., for telecom network elements which are large in numbers, is time taking exercise. Also understanding security standards, protocols, etc., is a complex and voluminous task. Further, there are no readily available standards and processes for security testing of telecom equipment as the issue of establishing security standards for telecom equipment has been realized only recently by international standard making bodies like 3GPP.

(c) The Government has decided to set up Telecom Testing and Security Certification Centre to develop systems, processes, adopt/develop security

standards, test tools, etc., for telecom equipment security testing and certification. Based on these standards, processes and tools, the Centre can accredit the test labs for security testing and certification of telecom equipment used by various Telecom service Providers. Such test labs can be set up/established under private or public or joint venture entity.

Decision to discontinue Duronto trains

*140. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to gradually discontinue the Duronto trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to discontinue Duronto train services. The special feature of Duronto trains is that they run non-stop from source to destination with no commercial halts enroute. However, some trains are found to have a low patronization on account of either non-suitable timings, no stoppages, etc. All these items are being addressed. In order to improve the patronization of Duronto Express trains, which were having inadequate utilization, action was taken to improve their patronization by converting them into superfast/Shatabdi/Jan-Shatabdi trains by providing commercial stoppages where potential for tapping extra revenue was obtaining. Thus, out of 33 Duronto train services announced and introduced, 5 Duronto trains till now have been converted or re-categorised by providing commercial stoppages enroute given as under:

- (i) 12241/12242 Chandigarh-Amritsar Duronto Express (converted into Superfast Express).
- (ii) 12278/12277 Howrah-Puri Duronto Express (converted into Shatabdi Express).
- (iii) 22211/22212 Ajmer-Nizamuddin Duronto Express (converted into Janshatabdi Express with new no. 12065/12066).