

Target to lay new railway lines

2556. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have fixed any target to lay new railway lines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of new lines laid out of the target, so far;
- (d) whether there is a shortfall in the laying of new lines;
- (e) if so, whether Government has analyzed the factors responsible for this;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the details of steps taken by Railways to achieve the targets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Targets for laying of new railway lines are fixed on yearly basis subject to availability of funds and progress made in individual projects. For the year 2014-15, the target for laying new railway lines is 300 Km. Out of this target, 39 Km new lines have been laid till June, 2014.

- (d) Generally, there is no shortfall in laying of new lines with respect to target.
- (e) to (g) Do not arise.

New railway zone in Seemandhra area

2557. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the provisions as contained in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 for establishing a new railway zone in Seemandhra area;
- (b) whether any decision has been taken thereon, if so, the steps being taken by Government thereon; and
- (c) the role of Government of Andhra Pradesh and the status of their response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Item 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 stipulates that "Indian Railways shall, within six months from the appointed day, examine establishing a new Railway zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh and take an expeditious decision thereon".

(b) and (c) A committee of Senior Officers from Railways has been constituted to examine, amongst other issues, the feasibility of creation of the new Railway Zone. The Terms of Reference of the Committee include holding of discussions with all concerned, including the State Government officials, before giving their recommendations. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Mechanism for rescue and relief operations

2558. SHRI GARIKAPATI MOHAN RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the mechanism in place for rescue and relief operations in Railways;
- (b) the details of response time in the aftermath of an accident;
- (c) whether Railways' disaster management plan presently lacks cohesiveness and is not fully prepared to handle disasters; and
- (d) if so, the corrective measures taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The Railways have a network of Accident Relief Trains and Accident Relief Medical Vans placed at identified locations, which cover the entire rail network of Indian Railways. The Accident Relief Medical Vans and Accident Relief Train are equipped with rescue and relief equipments required to be used at the accident site. On receiving information of an accident, the Accident Relief Medical Vans and Accident Relief Train are dispatched to the accident site along with personnel trained in rescue and relief operations.

(b) Immediately on receipt of information about an accident, involving or likely to involve injuries or deaths, Accident Relief Medical Vans (ARMVs) are rushed to the site of the accident. The target time for dispatch of ARMVs is a maximum of 30 minutes from their ordering. These ARMVs carry medical equipments, doctors, paramedics and other officials to the site of the accident for prompt medical relief. These also carry emergency tools for extricating the injured persons and the bodies from the debris, if required. Accident Relief Trains (ARTs) carrying equipments and staff to deal with relief, rescue and restoration are dispatched from the locations where these are stationed to the accident site. The target time for dispatch of ARTs is a maximum of 60 minutes from their ordering. ARMVs and ARTs are given precedence over all other trains while proceeding to the site of the accident. Many a times Railways doctors, paramedics and other officials reach the site of the accident by road depending upon accessibility of the site by road.