

**Railway tourism policy**

2563. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has devised a new comprehensive railway tourism policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has policy to promote religious tourism and also history tourism covering historical places of the country?

(d) if so, what circuits have been prepared and what facilities at budget rates are likely to be provided to foreign tourists so that they get quick reservation; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The tourism policies are reviewed on a regular basis and new products are introduced from time to time. In the recent Railway Budget 2014-15, a number of tourist trains offering package tours covering special pilgrim circuits like Devi Circuit, Jyotirling Circuit, Jain Circuit, Christian Circuit, Muslim /Sufi Circuit, Sikh Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Famous Temple Circuit etc. have been announced.

(c) to (e) Indian Railways network already caters to a number of religious and historic destinations in the country. Luxury tourist trains, Buddhist special train and Bharat Darshan trains also cover a number of religious and historic tourist places. Development of specific tourist circuits, including religious and historic places, is a continuous process based on market potential, financial viability, availability of resources, operational feasibility, etc. Facilities of Indian Railways are available to both domestic and foreign tourists. Indrail Passes as well as Foreign Tourist Quota in some important trains are available to foreign tourists. However, no separate budget rate for foreign tourist is provided.

**World class stations**

2564. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to develop 50 world class stations on the Indian railway system;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with location of such stations, zone-wise;

(c) the time-frame within which this upgradation would be completed; and

(d) the details of benefits that would accrue to the railway passengers as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) It has been decided to develop at least 10 major stations of Metro Cities and important junctions to international standards with state of the art modern facilities and passenger amenities through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

Stations to be redeveloped are to be identified based on adequacy of land, redevelopment cost, expected returns from real estate development, capacity of approach infrastructure to handle enhanced traffic, etc.

A dedicated organization, Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC) has been set up to undertake such station redevelopment projects.

Such projects require detailed techno-economic feasibility studies and statutory clearances from local authorities. Though Railways have been making sustained efforts towards expediting various issues, no targets can be indicated.

#### **PPP projects under Railways**

2565. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many PPP projects are operating under Railways;
- (b) the status of all these projects;
- (c) whether any of these projects are running on profit; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The following PPP projects are operating under Railways:

- (i) Surendranagar-Pipavav Gauge Conversion Project
- (ii) Hassan-Mangalore Gauge Conversion Project
- (iii) Gandhidham-Palanpur Gauge Conversion Project
- (iv) Bharuch-Dahej Gauge Conversion Project
- (v) Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam New Line Phase-I

All these projects are operational.

(c) and (d) As per balance sheet of the companies who have implemented the projects, the following projects have shown profit for the year 2012-13: