

(c) the special efforts Government is making to ensure that every rape case is disposed of in one year?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):

(a) and (b) As per the information made available by High Court of Andhra Pradesh, 302 Criminal Appeal Cases and 140 Criminal Revision Cases relating to Rape Cases are pending as on 07.07.2014 in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. 74 Criminal Appeal Cases and 56 Criminal Revision Cases are pending for over five years. The pendency is on account of high institution of cases *vis-a-vis* working strength of judges in the High Court.

(c) In order to expedite the trial of criminal cases, in general, and for certain serious offences relating to crime against women, in particular, Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, *inter alia*, provides that in every enquiry or trial, proceedings shall be held as expeditiously as possible, and in particular, when examination of witnesses has once begun, the same shall be continued from day-to-day until all the witnesses in attendance have been examined, and unless the court finds the adjournment of the same beyond the following day to be necessary for reasons to be recorded. This Section has further been amended through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 to provide that when the inquiry or trial relates to an offence under Section 376, Section 376 A, Section 376 B, Section 376 C or Section 376 D of the Indian Penal Code, the inquiry or trial shall, as far as possible be completed within a period of two months from the date of filing of the charge-sheet. The Government on its part has been pursuing the matter with the State Governments / High Courts for setting up of Fast Track Courts to *inter-alia* expedite the trial of cases relating to Crime Against Women.

#### **Pending railway projects**

†454. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many major projects of Railways are pending for want of financial resources, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government is mulling options like hundred per cent foreign direct investment and private partnership for mobilizing resources to complete major projects of Railways, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. As on 01.04.2014, there are 154 ongoing New Line, 42 Gauge

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Conversion and 166 doubling projects across the country requiring about Rs.1,82,224 crore for their completion.

(b) Ministry of Railways has approached Department of Industrial Policy and Planning for allowing Foreign Direct Investment in Rail Transport.

#### **Railway safety projects**

455. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increasing trend in train accidents during the last four years;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;

(c) the details and number of posts related to safety measures remaining vacant during the said period; and

(d) the progress in upgrading safety enhancing projects like installation of Anti-Collision Device (ACD), modernization of communication system, including signaling system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents including incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings, have generally decreased from 141 in 2010-11 to 131 in 2011-12, 121 in 2012-13 and further to 117 in 2013-14. Notwithstanding this, every accident is unfortunate and is a matter of concern for Indian Railways. Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety.

(c) Safety category vacancies during the last four years on Indian Railways are as under:

As on	Number of Safety Category vacancies
01.04.2011	1,26,304
01.04.2012	1,49,271
01.04.2013	1,42,311
01.04.2014	1,29,152 (Prov.)