

- (a) whether the shortage of train drivers and railway staff is the reason for delay in launching new projects under Southern Railway;
- (b) the details of the shortfall in railway personnel; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to recruit more staff under Southern Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The vacancy position of the following posts in Southern Railway as on 01.04.2014 (provisional) is as under:

Loco Pilot	:	278
Other Safety Category	:	7612
Non Safety Category	:	7958

(c) There is no compromise made in the railway services including the operation and safety of trains. In the Financial Year 2013-14 and upto 30.06.2014, total 7034 panels/persons were given to Southern Railway. Further, new indents for 9987 posts have been placed on the recruitment agencies by Southern Railway.

#### **Implementation of suggestions of Sam Pitroda Committee**

†1938. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI VIJAY GOEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Sam Pitroda Committee had been constituted for modernization of Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether there is any proposal to implement the suggestions of this Committee;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to carryout the construction and expansion works of Railways on low cost with the help of programmes like MGNREGA; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways had constituted an Expert

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Committee for Modernisation of Indian Railways under the chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda in September, 2011 to, *inter-alia*, recommend ways and means to modernise Indian Railways. The report of the Committee submitted in February, 2012 contained 113 recommendations covering 15 areas. The recommendations included those pertaining to modernization of tracks and bridges, signalling systems, rolling stock, stations and terminals, PPP (Public-Private-Partnership) initiatives, utilisation of land and air space, construction of dedicated freight corridors, high speed passenger corridors, expeditious implementation of "Priority Projects" harnessing Information and Communication technology, indigenous development and safety. It has also recommended mobilisation of resources for the aforesaid purposes along with human resource development to increase specialisation and some organisational changes including setting up of Railways Tariff Regulatory Authority. The Expert Group has projected an investment requirement of ₹ 5,60,396/- crores on modernisation in the next five years. The recommendations are far reaching in scope and spread, require in-depth analysis and detailed deliberation and are presently under active examination in Railway Board.

Pending acceptance of the recommendations, Railways have already initiated action for implementation of some of the recommendations like the ones pertaining to elimination of level crossings, modernisation of rolling stock, development of PPP models to attract private investment, construction of Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors and setting up of Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority.

- (c) There is no such proposal at present.
- (d) Does not arise.

#### **Loss of money due to forging of cheques**

1939. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:

SHRI S. THANGAVELU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have lost a sum of ₹ 13.54 crore due to forging of cheques of the Reserve Bank of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Railways have ordered any inquiry into it to unearth the culprits; and
- (d) if so, the findings of the said enquiry?