

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Huge throwforward of ongoing projects and limited overall availability of resource precludes railway from taking up new projects.

Joint venture by railways and rites for development of solar and wind energy

2322. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are contemplating on the development of use of solar and wind energy to reduce the cost of electricity, fuel and diesel, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether RITES and Railways are floating a joint venture project in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Indian Railways is harnessing solar and wind energy at competitive rates and have installed solar and wind mill plants of about 20 Mega Watt (MW) capacity. Further, works of about 10 MW of solar plants at Railway stations, office buildings and level crossing (LC) gates and 157.5 MW of wind mill plants have also been planned.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Railway Energy Management Company (REMC), a Joint Venture (JV) of Ministry of Railways and RITES in the equity partnership of 49% and 51% respectively, has been incorporated mainly for harnessing green energy for Railways.

Wagon factory at Kantabanji

2323. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there exists 700 acres of unutilized land of Railways in Kantabanji in Bolangir district of Odisha;

(b) whether Government has approved construction of a wagon factory in Kantabanji, if so, the progress and other details thereof;

(c) whether any area of the land will remain unutilized even after such construction, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what does Government propose to utilize the remaining land for, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. At Kantabanji, total 540.56 acres of land is with Railway. Out of which approximately only 68.42 acres of land is presently vacant.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The vacant railway land is meant for execution of various infrastructural works for future expansion of Railways.

Expansion and upgradation of railway station

2324. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering to make expansion of platform at Mettupalayam railway station and laying of a pit line for maintenance of engine and coaches at the same station;

(b) whether Railways are considering upgradation of Singanallur and Peelamedu railway stations;

(c) whether expansion plans of Podanur railway station is under process; and

(d) whether Railways are considering expansion and redevelopment of Irugur railway station falling in between Coimbatore and Tirupur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) A work for extension of platform at Mettupalayam railway station to hold 24 coaches has been sanctioned in 2014-15. However, laying of pit line at Mettupalayam station is not a sanctioned work.

(b) Pilamedu is an 'E' category and Singanallur is a 'F' category (halt) station. All amenities as per norms of Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) are available at these stations. Upgradation/augmentation of amenities at station is a continuous process. However, Pilamedu railway station has been identified for development under 'Adarsh' Station Scheme.

(c) and (d) Podanur is a 'D' category and Irugur is a 'F' category (halt) station. All amenities as per norms of MEA are available at these stations. Upgradation/augmentation of amenities at station is a continuous process. However, at present, there is no proposal for expansion/redevelopment of these stations.