

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has been set up for commercial development of vacant railway land which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs.

(b) and (c) 102 sites measuring 916 hectare of Railway land has been entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) for commercial development. The developers for 4 sites have been fixed, but none of the site has been commissioned so far. 8 sites of Maharashtra have been entrusted to RLDA for commercial development.

Replacement of obsolete equipments, engines, etc.

3126.DR T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that major problem faced by Railways is that the tracks are old and outdated, which have been the reasons for many serious train accidents in the past;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the corrective action taken or proposed to be taken;

(c) whether most of the equipment, railway engines and wagons used by Railways are now obsolete and need immediate replacement; and

(d) if so, the response of Government thereto and the steps taken to replace them in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Railway Tracks are changed as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis i.e. on the basis of traffic carried over the track and physical condition of track etc. except Meter Gauge (MG) track which are due for Gauge conversion. In case if any stretch of track is not renewed in time due to various reasons including scarcity of funds, materials etc., suitable speed restriction is imposed to ensure safe running of trains.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Replacement of obsolete locomotives, wagons & signaling equipments is a continuous process based on age-cum-condition in Railways under codal life provisions. Regular inspection of equipments is carried out to ensure their fitness for service. Obsolete equipments are condemned and replaced with new technology on age-cum-condition basis subject to availability of funds.