

(b) Yes, Sir. Several projects are affected by delay in land acquisition by State Governments. The delays are due to several reasons including long acquisition proceedings, litigation, transfer of forest land involving clearances and non-availability of proper revenue records.

(c) and (d) Railways undertakes the construction of Railway portion of Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge (ROB/RUB). The approaches are constructed by State Governments for which they acquire the land at their cost. Thus releasing of land by State Governments to Railways is not required.

Upgrading passenger facilities at railway stations

2687. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to privatize and modernize railway stations;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 10 to 12 railway stations will be taken up under the programme to significantly upgrade passenger amenities and make them akin to airport terminal buildings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) It has now been proposed to offer stations for redevelopment on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting open bids from interested parties with their designs and business ideas duly providing for amenities and other requirements of the Railways. However, the process for redevelopment of stations, already identified would continue. The entire cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the station. As train operations would remain with the Railways, such projects do not constitute privatization of railway stations.

Five stations, *viz.* Anand Vihar, Bijwasan, Chandigarh, Habibganj and Shivaji Nagar were initially entrusted to Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC), for which draft Master Plans have been prepared and are under statutory approvals, except for Habibganj for which in-principle approval has been obtained from concerned authorities. Request for qualification for Habibganj station has been finalized and bidders shortlisted for redevelopment contract. Surat station has also been entrusted to IRSDC, for which consultancy contract

has been awarded on 06.01.2015. Gandhinagar station has been entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority, for which tenders for consultancy have been invited on 10.02.2015. Bhubaneswar/New Bhubaneswar and Baiyyappanahalli (Bengaluru) stations are identified for prefeasibility studies by the China Railway Construction Engineering Group at their cost under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian Railways and National Railway Administration, Government of People's Republic of China.

Railway division at Rayagada under ECoR

2688. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering to create another railway division at Rayagada under the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway (ECoR) in view of the public demand;

(b) if so, the status thereof and by when it will be done; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) New Divisions on Indian Railways are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other administrative/operational requirements, consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency, without any regional considerations. The proposal for creation of a new Division with headquarters at Rayagada, when examined from these aspects, has not been found feasible.

Areas unconnected with railway lines in Odisha

2689. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in Odisha which are not connected with railway lines; and

(b) by when the Ministry proposes to lay railway lines in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Railway projects are not sanctioned area-wise, State-wise or region-wise. List of New Lines falling partly/fully in the State of Odisha taken up to provide connectivity to different parts of Odisha is given below: