

- (c) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Since these are strategic lines, Ministry of Defence has been requested to convey approval and deposit requisite funds amounting to ₹ 345 crore for carrying out Final Location Survey/Detailed Project Report (DPR).

- (c) As none of the projects has been sanctioned, no time-frame for their completion can be given.

Train services from Goa to religious places

614. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any trains available from Goa to Velankanni and Tirupati; and
- (b) if not, the reasons for not providing train services to go to these religious places despite the fact that Goa is an international tourist destination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) Goa is presently connected to Velankanni by 17315/17316 Velankanni-Vasco-Da-Gama Express (weekly) but there is no direct train between Goa and Tirupati. Introduction of a train from Goa to Tirupati is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints. However, introduction of trains is an on-going process on Indian Railways, subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification and availability of resources.

Policy on FDI in railways

615. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the Government's policy on FDI in railways;
- (b) the response of foreign investors and foreign railway companies to the opening up of the railway infrastructure for investment;
- (c) whether with focus on big ticket investments, Railways are neglecting short haul routes which can be money spinners, if properly handled, if so, the details thereof; and

- (d) if not, the steps underway to develop rail corridors between small towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Government of India in August 2014 has permitted 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through Automatic Route. FDI is permitted in construction, operation and maintenance of following:

(i) Suburban corridors through Public Private Partnership (PPP); (ii) High speed train projects; (iii) Dedicated freight lines; (iv) Rolling stock including trains sets and locomotive/coaches manufacturing and maintenance facilities; (v) Railway electrification; (vi) Signaling system; (vii) Freight terminal; (viii) Passenger terminal; (ix) Infrastructure in industrial park pertaining to railway line/siding; (x) Mass Rapid Transport System.

(b) No specific investment proposal has been received since the opening of FDI in Rail Transport.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Development of Indian Railway Network including small town connectivity is a continuous exercise whereby investments are made in New line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects subject to availability of fund.

Criminal cases in railways

†616. DR. VIJAY LAXMI SADHO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of crime like murder, theft and Jahar Khurani in trains is on the rise during the recent years;

(b) if so, the year-wise and State-wise details thereof for the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether it is a fact that passengers face difficulty in lodging FIRs at the stations; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of cases of crimes like murder and Jahar Khurani (drugging) in trains have decreased in the year 2014 in comparison to the previous year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.