

**Foreign participation in infrastructure segment**

617. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed 100 per cent foreign participation in crucial infrastructure segments of Railways, if so, the areas identified for this purpose;

(b) whether any blue print has been drawn to facilitate foreign investment in these areas, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any assessment has been made on the impact of foreign investment on employment of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled personnel in Railways, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government in November, 2014 has issued Sectoral guidelines which includes 17 sectors which permits 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in construction, operation and maintenance in the following identified areas:

(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 terminals; (viii) Passenger terminals; (ix) Testing facilities and laboratories; (x) Non-Conventional Sources of Energy; (xi) Railway Technical Training Institutes; (xii) Concessioning of standalone passenger corridors (branch lines, hill railways etc.); (xiii) Mechanized Laundry; (xiv) Rolling stock procurement; (xv) Bio-toilets; (xvi) Technological solutions for manned and unmanned level crossings; (xvii) Technological solutions to improve Safety and reduce accidents.

The Sectoral guidelines include permitted activity, salient features and limit to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in each of the above identified sectors.

(c) No assessment has been made.

**Investment for pending railway projects**

618. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many railway projects are pending for completion;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for bringing more investments for timely completion of such projects;

(c) the amount of private or foreign investment required for completion of these projects; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for bringing more investments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Railway projects are highly capital intensive and are financed mainly through Capital as Budgetary Support from General exchequer. There has been constant endeavour on the part of Railways to augment resources for Plan financing. Currently, Indian Railways require ₹ 4,91,510 crore to complete the ongoing sanctioned projects, which could be funded through General Budgetary Support or Extra Budgetary Resources including Private/Foreign funding. Indian Railways are progressively seeking enhanced Gross Budgetary Support for its projects. In order to invest in rolling stock, Railways borrow funds from market through Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC). In recent past, new line works have been sanctioned with financial contribution from State Governments. In December, 2014, Ministry of Railways had sent request to all State Governments for formation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for railway projects. Government is encouraging investments through Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for generating financing to build/strengthen rail infrastructure and for modernising the same. A Participative policy was notified in December 2012 and Sectoral guidelines for Domestic/Foreign Direct Investment have been notified in November 2014. Model Concession Agreements for three models Private line model, Joint Venture model and Build Operate Transfer (BOT) model have been issued to facilitate the investors.

#### **Survey for construction of new railway lines in Telangana**

619. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that a total of eight surveys have been conducted in the last three years in Telangana for construction of new railway line, if so, the details of such surveys; and