

**Introduction of train sets**

212. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the recently announced plan to launch train sets without engines in the railway budget;
- (b) the details and status of implementation of Bullet trains in the country;
- (c) whether the plan to launch train sets is a substitution to launching Bullet trains;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the status of operationalizing train sets, cost associated with the technology as well as details of proposed feasibility studies and the pilot projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Train sets announced in Budget speech-2015-16 is proposed to run on existing track and having features of superior riding experience, lesser journey time, higher capacity and energy efficient.

(b) Indian Railways currently does not have any High Speed Corridor. The High Speed Corridors identified for Pre-feasibility/ feasibility studies include:-

- (i) Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad-650 km.
- (ii) Delhi-Agra-Lucknow-Varanasi-Patna-991 km.
- (iii) Howrah-Haldia- 135 km.
- (iv) Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijaywada-Chennai-664 km.
- (v) Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram-850 km.
- (vi) Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar-450 km.
- (vii) Delhi-Jaipur-Ajmer-Jodhpur-591 km.
- (viii) Diamond Quadrilateral Network of High Speed Trains comprising of four sides i.e. Delhi-Mumbai, Mumbai-Chennai, Chennai-Kolkata, Kolkata-Delhi and both diagonals i.e. Delhi-Chennai and Mumbai-Kolkata. The total length of network will be approx. 10,000 km.

A joint feasibility study for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed corridor co-financed by India and Japan, which started in December 2013, is targeted for completion in June 2015.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Cost of 15 Train sets is estimated to be 2500 Crore. Feasibility study of Train Sets was carried out by Additional Members-Committee of Railway Board, and after taking into account financial implications and technical issues, committee recommended to run two train sets on trial initially. Procurement action of Train Sets has already been initiated.

**Bullet trains between Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Pune**

213. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has requested for introduction of Bullet trains between Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Pune;

(b) whether it is also a fact that study conducted by Railways for connecting Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Pune with Bullet trains was completed in April, 2010;

(c) if so, the reasons for not starting the Bullet train, so far; and

(d) by when Government proposes to take up the said project and the likely time-frame for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Ahmedabad-Mumbai-Pune is one of the seven High Speed Corridors selected for prefeasibility studies in consultation with State Governments. One prefeasibility study for Ahmedabad-Mumbai-Pune has been completed in June, 2010.

Further, for Mumbai – Ahmedabad, a Joint feasibility study, co-financed by India and Japan, has been undertaken.

(c) and (d) The High Speed Train projects are highly capital intensive. No time frame can be fixed for the decision on sanction of the project and funding.

**Railway schools in the country**

214. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of railway schools in the country, including in Gujarat, particularly in Patan, Mehsana, Palanpur and Rajkot;

(b) whether some of these schools are facing acute shortage of teachers;

(c) if so, by when the vacant posts are likely to be filled up; and

(d) the action being taken by Railways to improve the quality of education in these schools?