

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Railways have a well laid down policy for procurement to encourage competition and prevent cartel formation.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) E. Sreedharan Committee has submitted its Final Report on 11.03.2015. The Committee has recommended total delegation of powers to General Managers for calling tenders and finalization of all types of contracts. The Committee has further recommended substantial delegation of powers including those related to tenders and contracts to operating level in Zonal Railway Headquarters, Divisions, Production Units and other offices with checks and balances.

All powers to deal with works and stores tenders have been delegated by the Ministry of Railways to the General Managers. The powers for sanction of detailed estimates hitherto being exercised by the Minister have also recently been delegated to the General Managers.

As regards transparency in procurement, Indian Railways have already started e-procurement and 99% of procurement (by value) is already being made through this process.

#### **Doubling of Chennai-Kanyakumari Track**

1413.DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is still unable to complete the doubling of railway track from Chennai to Kanyakumari, which is considered essential for economic development of the Southern region of Tamil Nadu, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government is proposing any alternative method/mode to complete this much awaited project and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) On Chennai-Kanniyakumari route, double broad gauge line already exists between Chennai-Chengalpattu and Dindigul-Madurai sections. Project-wise status of works taken up in balance portion is given as under:-

1. **Chengalpattu-Villupuram (103 Km) :** On this project, Villupuram-Karunguzhi (83 Km) section has already been commissioned and track linking of balance portion *i.e.* Karunguzhi- Chengalpattu ( 20 Km) has also been completed.

2. **Villupuram-Dindigul (273 km) :** On this project, Ariyalur-Kalakuddi Palanganathan-Valadi section (50 Km) has already been commissioned and track linking work on 169 Km for Tiruvenainallur-Tallanallur (49 Km), Mathur-Ariyalur (25 km), Srirangam-Vaiyampatti (62 Km) and Kalpattichatram-Dindigul (33 km) sections have been completed. Earthwork and bridges in balance portion have also been taken up.
3. Madurai-Maniyachi-Tuticorin (80 Km), Maniyachi-Nagercoil (170 Km) and Trivandrum-Nagercoil-Kanniyakumari (85 Km)

Works included in the Budget 2015-16 subject to requisite approvals of the Government.

(b) In view of limited overall availability of Gross Budgetary Support, other alternative methods of financing such as market borrowings, participation of State Governments and other Stake holders have been considered for all such projects.

#### **Railway projects in Jharkhand**

1414.SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of railway projects in Jharkhand have been pending since long, if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such pendency;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that very recently Government of Jharkhand has requested the Ministry to take steps to ensure direct connectivity of Dumka to Kolkata-Bhagalpur, Patna and Delhi-Manderhill-Dumka railway line, as these projects are pending since long; and
- (c) if so, how Government proposes to complete these projects without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) At present Railways have taken up 21 major rail network expansion projects comprising ten New Lines, ten Doublings and one Gauge Conversion falling fully/partly in Jharkhand at an anticipated cost of ₹15368 crores. These projects are at various stages of completion. In addition to this, nine Doubling projects falling fully/partly in Jharkhand have been included in this year's Railway Budget at an estimated cost of ₹10148 crore subject to requisite approval of Government.

Non-availability of adequate funds has hampered most of the above mentioned