

**Development of 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations in Tamil Nadu**

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

(a) the details of 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations in the State of Tamil Nadu which have been identified for development on 'as is where is' basis by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around these stations; and

(b) the details of the mechanism in place to oversee whether land and air space is used according to the norms prescribed under this method?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) It has been decided to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations (about 400 stations) over Indian Railways, for redevelopment on 'as is where is' basis, by inviting open bids from interested parties with their designs and business ideas. 27 stations, viz. Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore Jn., Madurai Jn., Arakkonam Jn., Chengalpattu Jn., Dindigul Jn., Erode Jn., Jolarpettai Jn., Kanyakumari, Karur Jn., Katpadi, Kovilpatti, Kumbakonam, Mayiladuthurai Jn., Mettupalaiyam, Nagercoil Jn., Rameshwaram, Salem Jn., Tambaram, Thanjavur Jn., Tiruchirappalli Jn., Tirunelveli Jn., Tiruppur, Tuticorin, Villupuram Jn. and Virudhunagar Jn. falling in the State of Tamil Nadu qualify for redevelopment under this scheme.

(b) Guidelines have been issued to zonal railways regarding redevelopment of stations through the above method, which, inter-alia, contain provisions regarding leasing of land and air space for financing the station redevelopment.

**Feasibility study for bullet train project**

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

(a) whether the feasibility study conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the Bullet train project is the sole evaluation/assessment before an investment of approximately 98, 000 crore is made in the project;

(b) whether the Ministry recognises that it is a potential conflict of interest for JICA to not just conduct a feasibility study but consequently also provide Railways with a soft loan and technology transfer for this project; and

(c) if not, the reasons why JICA is the only agency whose recommendations are being considered by Railways?