

- (b) if, so, the details thereof and the names of railway stations earmarked/selected for this purpose and the basis on which their selection has been made;
- (c) the amount of budget allocated for this purpose; and
- (d) the time frame earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL), one of the Public Sector Undertakings of Railways, has entered into an agreement with M/s. Mahataa Information India Private Limited (MI IPL) a group company of M/s Google Inc. for providing high speed Wi-Fi facility at Railway stations.

(b) Wi-Fi project shall be undertaken in two phases to cover 75 Class A1 and 325 Class A stations. 100 stations out of total of A1 and A category shall be covered in phase-I and 300 stations in phase-II. Non-Suburban stations with an annual passenger earning of more than ₹60 crores are categorised as A1 stations. Non-Suburban stations with an annual passenger earnings of ₹ 8 crores and upto ₹ 60 crores are categorised as A stations.

(c) The project is cost neutral to Railways and all capital expenditure is to be incurred by RCIL and M/s. MI IPL, a group company of M/s Google.

(d) Initially in Phase-I, the work is being taken up at 100 class A-1/A stations, after completion of which, work on 300 class A-1/A stations shall be taken up in phase-II.

#### **Faster engines and coaches**

773. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways propose to introduce locomotive engines and train coaches which could run at a speed of 200 kilometers per hour;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the time by when the trial run of these engines and coaches is likely to take place?

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

(b) The initiatives taken with respect to upgradation of locomotives and coaches are as under:

- (i) One WAP-5 type Electric locomotive with modified transmission and drive gear system suitable to haul trains at 200 kilometres per hour has been upgraded. Similarly, Diesel locomotives are also under upgradation to achieve 200 kilometres per hour.
- (ii) One Linke Hofman Busch (LHB) rake with speed potential of 200 kilometers per hour is under development at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala. The coaches of this rake are envisaged with advanced braking system having stainless steel brake discs, automatic body-side plug type entrance doors and improved inter-car gangway mounting arrangements. Besides better interior furnishing having improved design of seats, better amenities in lavatories, Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lighting, call cum annunciator system, GPS based passenger information system etc. have also been incorporated in its design.
- (c) Trial run of locomotives and coaches will be dependent upon availability of resources.

#### **On Board House-keeping Services**

774. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of trains which have been provided with On Board House-keeping Services (OBHS);
- (b) whether Government has identified more trains for providing OBHS and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the revised criterion for provisions of OBHS on trains; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government to provide OBHS facility on all long distance trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Presently around 570 train pairs are provided with On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) facilities across Indian Railways.

(b) OBHS is being provided on identified Mail/Express trains satisfying laid down parameters such as journey time/period, coach type etc. Zonal Railways identify additional trains for provision of OBHS scheme, as per requirements, which is an ongoing process.

(c) As per the revised criteria, all important Mail/Express trains excluding purely overnight journey trains (running between 2200 hrs to 0600 hrs) are now eligible for coverage under this scheme.