

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways have been receiving audit observation of generic nature regarding delay and escalation of the cost of projects. However, completion of projects depends on many factors such as land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, construction of road over and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies etc. apart from availability of funds. As most of these factors are not within the control of Railways, it is not feasible to fix timelines for all the projects. As a result, most of the ongoing projects are facing cost overrun.

(e) Various measures taken to expedite completion of new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects include substantial increase in allocation of funds, prioritization of projects, delegation of powers at field level, inviting the State Governments to participate with Railways for resource mobilization for projects, nomination of nodal officers for improved co-ordination with the State Governments etc.

Ticketing racket on IRCTC website

779. SHRI T.K.RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a ticketing racket existed on the IRCTC website which could book over two lakh train tickets in thirty seconds;
- (b) if so, for how long was the racket functioning; and
- (c) how the racket was detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) website has the capacity to book 15000 tickets in a minute. While no incidence of over two lakh train tickets having been booked in thirty seconds is on record, isolated cases of users making use of some software to enable quicker booking of tickets have been reported. Steps have been taken to negate the possible advantage being drawn by illegal use of such software. Upgradation of infrastructure relating to the website has also been undertaken.

Disabled-friendly railway stations

780. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set an ambitious target to make 75 railway stations disabled-friendly by July, 2016;
- (b) how many of the 75 railway stations have already been included in earlier schemes to make them disabled-friendly;
- (c) the railway stations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana selected under the above scheme; and