

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) So far Railways have been generating 'Excess' *i.e.* total receipts over its total expenses and dividend payment to the Government, over the years. In fact in 2014-15, Railways generated higher 'Excess' over 2013-14 and improved its Operating Ratio as indicated below:

Items	2013-14	2014-15
Excess generated by Indian Railways (₹ in crore)	3,740	7,665
Operating Ratio (%)	93.6%	91.3%

Financial estimates covering earnings and expenses on Indian Railways are prepared annually taking into account various factors like traffic (passenger and freight) throughput and input cost like staff cost, fuel cost, material cost and other factors like plan size, Gross Budgetary Support, dividend payments to general revenues, and if the situation so warrants, additional resource mobilisation measures are adopted. It is not possible to comment on the financial scenario in the future as no exact advance information is available regarding these financial parameters.

(c) Does not arise.

Bullet train corridor

2377. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final feasibility study on the proposed project to build a bullet train corridor between Mumbai and Ahmedabad has been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether Government plans to partner with foreign Governments or organisations to build this corridor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Final report of joint feasibility study for Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed train project, co-financed by Indian Railways and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been received by Ministry of Railways in July 2015. The completion cost of 508 km. long high speed line is estimated at approximately

₹ 98,000 crore. It also provides details of alignment, station locations, land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, rolling stock requirement, other technical specifications and different funding options required to implement the project etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Japan has agreed to provide technical and financial assistance for building the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail corridor which includes assistance to the tune of 81% of the total project cost by way of a soft loan at an interest rate of 0.1% for 50 years with 15 year moratorium.

Rail Neer scam

2378. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Rail Neer scam unearthed by CBI recently;
- (b) whether it is a fact that ₹ 27 crore cash was seized from an accused's residence;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the accused has more than 70 per cent of Railway catering contracts in his kitty; and
- (d) the details of irregularities done by the said accused and the action Government proposes to take against him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against two Railway officials and eight private caterers under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 regarding the supply of packaged drinking water other than the prescribed 'Rail Neer' in Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains in Northern Railway.

(b) No such official communication has been received from CBI.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) As per the case registered by CBI, the caterers allegedly supplied packaged drinking water other than the prescribed 'Rail Neer' in Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains in Northern Railway in violation of the existing policy. It has been decided to make payments directly to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation for supply of Rail Neer Packaged Drinking Water in Shatabdi/Rajdhani/Duronto trains.

Number of unmanned railway level crossings

2379. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: