

**MoU with ISRO**

1558. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have sought ISRO's help for apps, aiming at effective use of space technology in remote sensing and graphic information system based applications, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have entered into an MoU with ISRO in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railway plans to use the capability and capacity of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in remote sensing and Geographic Information System based applications.

Indian Railways has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Space Research Organisation for effective use of Space Technology for following applications:

- (i) Mapping of Indian Railway assets through Geospatial technology.
- (ii) Developing Real Time Train Information System by using Communication Satellite Services.
- (iii) Setting up of "BHUVAN" node in Indian Railways to internalize the use of BHUVAN geospatial solutions by Railways.
- (iv) Meet Indian Railways satellite based communication requirements.

The MoU has been signed on March 17th, 2016 and has come into force, which will be effective for 05 years.

**MoU with foreign countries**

1559. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have signed MoU with any foreign country on developing high speed corridors in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have also sought technical assistance for certain station redevelopment projects from some foreign countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to set up Railway University in collaboration with technical institutions for introducing railway-oriented subjects for graduation and skill development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) A Memorandum of Cooperation has been signed with Government of Japan for development of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail on 12.12.2015 with Japanese financial and technical assistance. Japanese Yen loan of upto 81% of the total Project cost will be provided at 0.1% interest rate, repayment in 50 years with 15 years moratorium.

(b) Ministry of Railways have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the following countries for technical cooperation in Railway Sector wherein Station Development/Modernisation is one of the cooperation areas: (i) Slovak Republic; (ii) United Kingdom; (iii) Japan; (iv) China; (v) Russia; (vi) Czech Republic; (vii) France; (viii) Germany; (ix) Spain and (x) Korea.

Technical and Execution Study for renovation/development of Ludhiana and Ambala railway stations has been entrusted to France.

Pre-feasibility study for redevelopment of New Bhubaneswar and Baiyyappanahalli (Bengaluru) stations has been offered to China.

(c) Detailed Project Report for establishing a Railway University by upgrading the National Academy of Indian Railways at Vadodara and using the existing Centralized Training Institutes of Indian Railways as Constituent Schools of Study has been completed.

**Formation of a company to fast-track pending projects in Maharashtra**

1560. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are going to form a company which will enable it to fast-track pending projects in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of the pending railway projects to be covered by the said company;

(c) whether Railways have fixed any target for their completion; and

(d) how Railways propose to arrange finance for completion of the projects, the details thereof?