

These PFTs function as multi-modal logistic parks. So far 34 PFTs have been notified and in-principle approval for 41 more have been given.

Recruitment test centres for persons with disability

2365. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether blind candidates appearing for recruitment test for Group D backlog vacancies were allotted centres far away from their hometowns, leading to inconvenience; and

(b) if so, the steps the Ministry is taking to conduct the recruitment test again for persons with disability at their hometowns, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Sitting plan for the said examination involving 1,93,924 candidates was arranged in 247 centres in 138 cities all over India. In these arrangements, efforts were made to ensure that the visually challenged candidates were allotted centres nearer to their place of residence. In some cases, candidates approached the Railways explaining problems with their centres and their requests for change of centre were accepted.

(b) Overall, 66.18% candidates appeared in the test, which is significant participation and as such Railways are not contemplating re-examination.

Slow running of Tatanagar-Alappuzha Link Express

2366. DR. PRADEEPKUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether train no. 18189/18190 Tatanagar-Rourkela-Alappuzha Link Express is running late in spite of its augmentation by Railways from December, 2012, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the measures being taken by Railways in speeding up the train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Punctuality performance of train no. 18189/18190 Tatanagar-Rourkela-Alappuzha Link Express in the last three months (01.02.2016 to 30.04.2016) has remained above 90%.

(b) Train no. 18189/18190 Tatanagar-Rourkela Link Express is merged with 13351/13352 Dhanbad-Rourkela Link Express at Rourkela and the merged train goes upto

Alappuzha. The train was speeded up by 55 minutes with effect from 01.10.2015 and orders for speeding up by 160 minutes on Southern Railway territory *i.e.* between Guntur and Alappuzha from "No booking" date have been issued.

New Cell to deal with green issues

2367. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have set up a new Cell to deal with green issues, if so, the details of such issues; and
- (b) the status of providing green toilets in running trains and at railway stations on the Railways' system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. A new Directorate, namely, Environment and Housekeeping Management Directorate has been set up in Ministry of Railways, which is, *inter alia*, responsible for environment and housekeeping related matters such as Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Swachh Bharat Mission, etc.

- (b) Approximately 36,000 bio-toilets have been installed in passenger coaches of Indian Railways. Ten bio-toilets have been installed at railway stations.

Railways plan to go green

2368. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways propose to go green in a big way by introducing new generation electric locomotives and devising other measures *i.e.* installing green latrines in trains and station buildings, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the action plan of Railways to harness wind energy for use in railway network; and
- (c) whether Railways have developed any such wind mill, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. 12000 Horse Power Electric Locomotives of Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor (IGBT) Technology having regenerative braking feature, are to be manufactured at Electric Locomotive Factory at Madhepura/Bihar for which Contract for setting up the factory and Procurement cum Maintenance of these locomotives has been awarded.