

waitlisted passengers, subject to feasibility and extra trains, over and above the normal time tabled trains are run, to cater to the demand.

**Funds raised through EBR-IF**

3055. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has raised any funds through Extra Budgetary Resources-Institutional Finance (EBR-IF) to augment pending railway projects;

(b) if so, the details of funds raised so far during the current financial year; and

(c) the details of projects on which the funds, so raised, have been spent?

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

(b) An amount of ₹1,500 crore drawn from Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been availed as Extra Budgetary Resources (Institutional Finance) (EBR-IF) for financing of projects in the current financial year 2016-17.

(c) EBR-IF funds have been deployed to meet capital expenditure on new and ongoing railway projects mainly under plan heads of doubling, electrification and gauge conversion.

**Diamond quadrilateral network**

3056. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have undertaken a Diamond Quadrilateral network of high-speed rail connecting major metros and growth centres; and

(b) if so, the metro cities and growth centres identified for this purpose and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Six corridors on Diamond Quadrilateral connecting metropolitan cities and growth centers of the country (Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata) have been identified for feasibility studies for high speed rail connectivity viz: (i) Delhi-Mumbai, (ii) Mumbai-Chennai, (iii) Chennai-Kolkata, (iv) Kolkata-Delhi and both diagonals *i.e.* (v) Delhi-Chennai and (vi) Mumbai-Kolkata routes.

Feasibility studies for Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Kolkata and Mumbai-Chennai have been awarded in September, 2015. Feasibility studies for Delhi-Nagpur portion of Delhi-Chennai corridor and Mumbai-Nagpur portion of Mumbai-Kolkata corridor are being undertaken through Government to Government cooperation, with China and Spain respectively.