

Indian Railways is a continuous process and is undertaken as per requirement and availability of funds. It is Railways' endeavour to provide passenger amenities *viz.* waiting hall/rooms, platform shelter, taps for drinking water, lavatories and urinals, seats, Foot Over Bridges etc. at stations including those situated on Ujjain-Nagda-Ratlam and Nagda-Kota railway routes commensurate with their category and essential passenger amenities are available at these stations as per norms.

Adequate lighting arrangements have been provided at platforms and station buildings between Ratlam-Nagda-Ujjain and Nagda-Kota Railway route, and lamps/lights are in working condition.

Regular inspection and maintenance of all equipments is ensured and complaints are attended promptly.

User-friendly railway stations for physically challenged and senior citizens

3088. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many new stations have been constructed that would enable ease of access for the physically challenged/senior citizens with access ramps, escalators and /or elevators;
- (b) how many existing stations have been modified for their ease of access;
- (c) how many railway stations have been identified for modification in future to make it user-friendly for physically challenged and senior citizens; and
- (d) the time-frame for such upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Improvement/augmentation of amenities at stations, including those for differently-abled passengers is a continuous process. In order to provide better accessibility to passengers with disabilities, short term facilities which, *inter-alia*, include provision of standard ramp for barrier free entry have been planned depending upon categories of the stations, beginning with 'A-1', 'A' and 'B' category stations. Presently, standard ramps at entry have been provided at about 1690 railway stations.

Further, as per the existing guidelines, escalators/elevators are to be provided progressively at 'A-1' category and escalators at 'A' category, 'C' category and stations of tourist importance, based on techno commercial feasibility and availability of funds.

So far, 300 no. of escalators at 120 stations and 146 no. of lifts at 57 stations have been provided across Indian Railways. Provision of lifts and escalators at stations is a continuous process and is done as per need, priority of work and availability of funds.