

Operating Talgo train on Indian railway track

2048. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Spanish train, Talgo, touched a speed of 150 kilometers per hour and took more than four hours off the Rajdhani's time for the same distance currently;

(b) if so, the reasons for not meeting the requirement of Indian Railways and the details thereof; and

(c) whether Railways are still inclined to import Spanish train, Talgo, for operating on the Indian railway tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The timing assessment trial of Talgo coaches carried out on 10th and 11th September, 2016 on New Delhi-Mumbai section was done at maximum permissible speed of 150 kmph. The trial train took 11 hours and 42 minutes against the travel time of 15 hours and 50 minutes taken by Train No. 12952, New Delhi-Mumbai Rajdhani Express.

(b) The trial was limited to assessment of timing and detailed technical assessment with regard to complete compatibility with Indian Railway's fixed infrastructure and other requirements was outside the scope of the trial.

(c) No decision has been taken for the purchase of these coaches.

Rail connectivity of ports

2049. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of rail connectivity of ports across the country, there is long delay in evacuation of cargo from ports, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has formulated any detailed plan/scheme to improve rail connectivity of Indian ports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Presently, 12 major ports (six on Western and six on Eastern Coasts) are already connected with Indian Railway network. Capacity augmentation of the lines linking the ports to hinterland is taken up on a need-based manner.

Rail connectivity to some of non-major ports namely Mundra, Dahej, Pipavav, Dhamra and Krishnapatnam etc. have been provided under Public Private Partnership. A participative policy for rail connectivity has been issued in December, 2012 to facilitate rail connectivity to upcoming ports and mines through Public Private Participation. Several ports projects which have been granted approval/in-principle approval under the participative policy for rail connectivity are Jaigarh, Diggi, Riwas, Astaranga, Chhara, Nargol and Hazira.

Surveyed/sanctioned railway projects for Punjab

2050. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway projects for Punjab which are surveyed/sanctioned but could not be executed so far; and

(b) the status of each such project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN) (a) and (b) List of surveys completed in State of Punjab, during the last five years, is given below:-