

Providing state-of-the-art facilities at railway stations

†2829. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not even a single announcement that Government had made for transforming railway stations with state-of-the-art facilities, similar to airports, has been fulfilled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the number of stations provided with state-of-the-art facilities by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) The station redevelopment projects, which envisage provision of state-of-the-art facilities to the travelling public, are intrinsically complex and require high degree of project planning, detailed techno-economic feasibility studies and in-principle approval from various local bodies before bidding can be taken up. Hence, such projects generally have long gestation periods.

As a result of efforts made by Railways in this direction, contract for redevelopment of one station *viz.* Habibganj has been awarded. Request for Qualification (RFQ) for 2 stations, *viz.* Anand Vihar and Bijwasan (in Delhi) has been finalized and bidders shortlisted. Request for Proposal (RFP) has also been invited for the Anand Vihar station. RFQ for development of Multi-Modal Transportation Hub at Surat has also been invited. An Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) tender has been invited for the Gandhinagar station in Gujarat and the technical bids opened on December 2, 2016. Detailed feasibility studies for redevelopment of Chandigarh, Gandhinagar and Shivajinagar stations have been completed. Further, Indian Railways has also advertised its plan to develop 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on 'as is where is' basis, inviting proposals from developers with their designs and business ideas.

Foreign Tourist Quota

2830. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Varanasi attracts a lot of foreign tourists;

(b) if so, why new trains like Suhaildev and Mahamana Express do not have Foreign Tourist Quota (FTQ);

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.