

stock manufacturing have already been awarded to Alstom and General Electric (GE) respectively in 2015.

(b) FDI in strengthening and modernising of railway network indirectly contributes to safety improvement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Recognised Railway Federations *i.e.* All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) and National Federation of Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) have expressed concerns about Foreign Direct Investment in Railways.

It has been clarified to the federations that Foreign Direct Investment enables strengthening and expansion of the rail infrastructure without privatising the Railways.

#### **Electrification of railway tracks**

4140. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway tracks to be electrified during next five years along with those electrified during the last three years;

(b) whether Railways have taken any measures to accelerate the pace of electrification of railway tracks, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Railways to use clean energy in a big way in order to decarbonize the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railways have prepared an Action Plan to electrify 24400 route kilometers in five years (2016-17 to 2020-21). Year-wise details are as under:-

Year	Route Kilometres to be electrified
2016-17	2000
2017-18	4000
2018-19	6000
2019-20	6200
2020-21	6200
TOTAL	24400

5186 route kilometres of railway lines have been electrified during the last three years (*i.e.* 2014-15 to 2016-17). Year-wise details are as under:-

Year	Route Kilometres of Railway Lines electrified
2014-15	1375
2015-16	1730
2016-17	2013
TOTAL	5118

(b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years (2014-2017) and for 2017-18, total number of 93 railway electrification projects consisting 16815 route kilometer (RKM) at an estimated cost of ₹ 17165 crore have been included in Railway Budget and pace of electrification has been increased from present average of 1700 RKM/annum to 4000 RKM in 2017-18.

Further, to expedite electrification of railway lines in the country, various steps have been taken, which *inter alia* include award of turn-key contracts, better project monitoring mechanism, enhancing power of field units for award of contracts including sanction of estimates and increasing the number of executing agencies from existing three to six by entrusting electrification works to new agencies *viz.* Indian Railway Construction Company, Rail India Technical and Economic Services and Power Grid Corporation of India Limited.

(c) To reduce dependence on fossil fuels, Indian Railways have planned to source about 1000 Mega Watt (MW) Solar Power as a part of the Solar Mission of Railways and about 200 MW of power from wind mill power plants based on techno commercial assessments.

#### **Vacancies belonging to SC/ST categories in Railways**

4141. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many posts belonging to SC/ST categories are lying vacant in Railways in all Groups;

(b) the reasons of long standing vacancies; and

(c) whether Government intends to start a special recruitment drive for SCs/STs in Railways to fill up the vacancies, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The total backlog of reserved vacancies of SCs/STs on Indian Railways as on 01.04.2016 is 7374.