

Wi-Fi services in trains

4145. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to provide Wi-Fi services to passengers in trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) As a pilot project, Railways have provided Wi-Fi in Howrah–New Delhi–Howrah Rajdhani Express using Satellite communication technology. This technology is very capital intensive with recurring costs in form of bandwidth charges.

Thus Railways are exploring various cost effective technologies to provide Wi-Fi in moving trains. Once such a technology is available, decision to extend Wi-Fi facility in trains will be taken.

Renovation of railway stations in Jharkhand

4146. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to renovate railway stations under its railway stations redevelopment programme, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number and details of stations being considered for renovation and redevelopment, particularly in Jharkhand; and

(c) the quantum of funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways has advertised its plan to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on 'as is where is' basis for redevelopment by inviting proposals from interested parties with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the station.

(b) The State-wise details of the 'A-1' and 'A' category railway stations are given in Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No. 4120 part (a) to (c)]. The following are 'A-1 and A' category stations in the State of Jharkhand:

Bokaro Steel City, Daltonganj, Dhanbad, Gomoh, Hatia, Jasidih, Koderma, Madhupur, Parasnath, Ranchi and Tatanagar.

(c) As the entire cost of station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations, Railway funds are generally not required for this purpose.

Funds allocated to handloom industry in Telangana

4147. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to develop handloom industry in Telangana, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantum of funds being allocated in this financial year for development of Handloom industry in the State; and

(c) whether the Ministry has received any proposals from Government of Telangana with regard to development of handloom clusters, financial assistance for handlooms etc., the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) Government of India has decided to continue implementation of the following schemes in the current Plan for development of handloom industry in the country, including Telangana:

- (1) National Handloom Development Programme
- (2) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- (3) Yarn Supply Scheme
- (4) Comprehensive Handloom Cluster Development Scheme (for development of 08 mega handloom clusters)

(b) Under the above schemes, State-wise allocations of funds are not made. Viable proposals received from the states/Implementing Agencies are considered for release of financial assistance, subject to availability of funds.

(c) Yes, Sir. Proposals for financial assistance for 18 block level cluster projects have been received during 2016-17 from the State Government of Telangana, of which 06 projects (01 in Mahbubnagar, 01 in Armoor, 01 in Warangal, 01 in Pochampally and 02 in Karimnagar districts) have already been sanctioned. Besides, 2 block level cluster projects were sanctioned in Telanganain 2015-16.