

(d) whether new railway projects have been started in the States, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective action taken or proposed to be taken for speedy implementation of these projects in Bihar and Jharkhand States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, Railways have taken up 81 major projects comprising 42 New Lines, 32 Doublings and 7 Gauge Conversions falling fully/partly in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) Completion of project depends upon several factors including availability of funds, complete handing over of encumbrance-free land by the State Government, forestry clearances, shifting of utilities, Road over/under bridges, canal & electrical crossings, etc. Since most of these factors are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways, no time-frame has been fixed for completion of the projects.

(d) Yes, Sir. In the Budget 2017-18, one new Railway project namely 'Wazirganj-Natesar *via* Gehlaur (20 km) new line' falling in the State of Bihar has been included, subject to approval of Government.

(e) To expedite completion of all the above mentioned ongoing projects, regular coordination meetings with the State Government for resolving issues of land acquisition, providing clearances for forest land, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, provision of funds, etc. have been taken up at highest level. Simultaneously, fund allotment has been substantially enhanced for all these projects.

#### **Routes of Talgo trains**

†1900. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with any foreign company to run Talgo trains in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the routes where Talgo trains are expected to be run;

(c) whether it would be considered to run Talgo trains from Delhi to Dehradun and Kotdwar and from Anand Vihar to Tanakpur and Haldwani; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir. No agreement has been reached with any foreign company to run Talgo trains in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken for the introduction of Talgo trains on Indian Railways.

#### **Old currency notes as compensation to victims of train accidents**

†1901. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old currency notes were provided as compensation to the family members of people deceased and injured in Kanpur train accident;

(b) if so, the justification for providing old currency notes in view of the fact that notes of ₹500 and 1000 denomination were demonetised in the country;

(c) whether any action would be taken against the officials disbursing demonetised old currency notes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Generally, *ex-gratia* is paid from the station earnings for quick disbursement. The said accident occurred in wee hours and the money, which was withdrawn from station earnings for immediate disbursement, was a mix of old and new currency notes as old currency notes were acceptable by the Railways during that period of demonetisation. Subsequently, old currency notes were exchanged with new notes later on the same day when new currency notes were made available by RBI/Kanpur.

(c) and (d) Appropriate action in this regard has already been taken.

#### **New trains for Bihar**

†1902. SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains proposed to be run in Bihar during the current financial year;

(b) the number of trains whose destinations are decided to be extended during the said financial year;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.