

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 The said accident occurred in wee hours and the money, which was withdrawn from station earnings for immediate disbursement, was a mix of old and new currency notes as old currency notes were acceptable by the Railways during that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;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the number of new Shatabdi trains proposed to be run through Bihar in the current financial year; and

(d) whether Railways plan to run another Rajdhani train for Patna on the route other than the one on which one Rajdhani train already runs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Indian Railways do not run trains on State-wise basis as rail network straddles across State boundaries. However, following four pairs of train services as announced in Railway Budget 2016-17 will serve the stations in the State of Bihar:—

(i) 22913/22914 Bandra (T)- Patna Humsafar Express.

(ii) 15563/15564 Jaynagar-Udhna Antyodaya Express.

(iii) 15567/15568 Darbhanga-Jalandhar City Antyodaya Express.

(iv) 22317/22318 Sealdah-Jammu Tawi Humsafar Express.

(b) Extension of train services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways keeping in view traffic demand, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no such proposal.

New technology for laying of railway tracks

1903. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways plan to introduce any new technology for laying of railway track of 9.5 kilometres per day during current fiscal year; and

(b) if so, the details of the new technology to be used for laying of railway track and whether any MoU has been signed with any country for the same, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways has fixed the target of commissioning of 3500 Km of New Line/Gauge Conversion/Doubling during 2017-18 which works out to average progress of 9.59 Km per day. On important projects like dedicated freight corridors, Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India (DFCCIL) has awarded Design Build Lump-sum Contract for Civil, Structure and Track Works. In these contracts, the Agency has roped in one of the specialized sub-contractors for Mechanized Track Laying, who is bringing NTC (New Track Construction) Machine for Mechanized Track Laying which is capable of track laying approx. 1.5 km per day. Presently, no MoU has been signed with any country for bringing new technology for laying Railway Track.