

without transferring the ownership of the land in favour of State Forest Department. As per the provisions of the model Agreement, cost of the plantation including its protection and maintenance can be borne by State Forest Department or Railway Administration or can be shared by both. The plantation work on railway land along the railway track has already been started under this agreement in some of the States. During the year 2016-17 (up to February, 2017) 1.22 crore saplings have already been planted.

Laying of second railway line from Madurai to Kanyakumari

3493. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of laying a second railway line from Madurai to Kanyakumari;
- (b) by when Government proposes to complete the project in view of very high utilization of line capacity in this section;
- (c) whether adequate funds have been allocated to this project; and
- (d) if so, whether Southern Railway has utilized the entire allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Madurai-Tuticorin (80 km.), Maniyachi-Nagercoil (170 km.) and Trivandrum-Nagercoil-Kanyakumari (85 km.) doubling projects have been included in the Budget 2015-16 with the *proviso* to incur expenditure on these projects after obtaining requisite approvals of the Government. 'In Principle Approvals' (IPA) for the three projects have been granted and the projects are being processed for further requisite approvals.

- (b) No target date for completion of aforesaid projects is fixed.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) No, Sir.

Gauge conversion and electrification of railway lines

†3494. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have conducted any survey in various States, including Bihar and Jharkhand, for laying new railway lines, gauge conversion and electrification of old railway lines;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.