

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) The work of construction of conference hall of Indian Railway Promotee Officers' Federation office has been completed and is in use since January 2016. Representation was received by Engineering Department of Northern Railway. Regarding investigation into irregularities in construction, the departmental investigation was done, but no irregularities were found.

However, Vigilance Department did not receive any complaint/representation regarding irregularities in the work.

### **Employment to disabled persons**

2387. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme prepared by Railways for providing employment to the handicapped and blind persons on priority basis in the Railways in the last three years; and

(b) the employment given to the disabled persons in the last three years, Division-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Three percent of the vacancies in case of direct recruitment from open market for filling up non-gazetted posts have been reserved for providing employment to the Person with Disabilities. Of this, one percent each have been reserved for persons suffering from (i) blindness or low vision (ii) hearing impairment and (iii) locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability. Whenever a short fall is seen in this direction, a special Recruitment Drive (SRD) is launched. Last SRD was conducted in the year 2016.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### **Pending railway projects in Bihar**

†2388. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is gearing up for early completion of the ongoing railway projects in the country, if so, the details thereof;

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of rail lines pending in Bihar, which have not been completed in time; and

(c) by when the Sakri - Nirmali - Bhaptiyahi rail line which is still incomplete, is likely to become operational along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) To expedite completion of ongoing projects, Indian Railways have taken the following steps:

- (i) Making higher fund allotment for projects: The capital expenditure for railways has been increased from ₹ 58,718 crore in 2014-15 to around ₹ 93,795 crore in 2015-16. ₹ 1,21,000 crore has been provided in Budget 2016-17 and a plan size of ₹ 1,31,000 crore has been kept for 2017-18.
- (ii) Delegation of powers to the field officers for tenders and estimates: The Zonal Railways have now been delegated full powers with respect to works contracts. Full powers have been given to General Managers of Zonal Railways with respect to sanctioning of estimates. This has also resulted in cutting down time for estimate sanctions and tenders.
- (iii) Institutional financing by tying up loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for ₹ 1.5 lakh crore for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railway's capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

(b) As on 01.04.2017, there are 34 New Lines, 5 Gauge Conversion and 13 Doubling ongoing projects falling fully/partly in the State of Bihar.

(c) The Sakri-Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi is part of Sakri-Laukaha Bazar-Nirmali and Saharsa-Forbesganj (206 km) Gauge Conversion project which is in progress. Railway traffic from Sakri to Bhaptiyahi through Kosi Bridge can be commissioned only after completion of Sakri-Nirmali and Saraigarh to Forbesganj Gauge Conversion project.

#### **Gwalior-Indore Janshatabdi Express**

†2389. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any demand/proposal to run the Janshatabdi Express between Gwalior and Indore via Guna-Shivpuri;

(b) if so, whether this demand/proposal is being considered and an early decision is likely to be taken on it;

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.