

**Government subsidy to railways**

2396. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of subsidy given by Government to Railways at present;
- (b) whether Government proposes to launch any scheme for rail fares, giving passengers the option to voluntarily forego the subsidy on tickets; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) During the year 2015-16 (latest available), the overall losses in Passenger services (Suburban and Non-suburban) was ₹ 35038 crore, which is 43% of the expenses incurred on passenger services.

(b) and (c) There is already provision to give up concession in fare for senior citizens since many years. However, at present, there is no such proposal to introduce give up scheme for general public to voluntarily forego the subsidy on passenger fare.

**Modernisation of railway stations**

2397. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways floated tenders for modernisation of stations as part of its ambitious Station Redevelopment Plan; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Railways has advertized its plan to offer 'A-1' and 'A' category stations on 'as is where is' basis for redevelopment by inviting proposals from developers with their designs and business ideas. The entire cost of the station redevelopment is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations. Railway has already invited Bid for 26 Railway Stations.

Zonal Railways, in the first phase of station redevelopment program which was launched on 08.02.2017, have already invited bids for 23 stations. The State-wise details of these stations are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Station	State
1.	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	Maharashtra
2.	Pune	Maharashtra
3.	Thane	Maharashtra

Sl. No.	Name of Station	State
4.	Mumbai Central	Maharashtra
5.	Bandra Terminus	Maharashtra
6.	Borivali	Maharashtra
7.	Howrah	West Bengal
8.	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
9.	Kanpur Central	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh
11.	Kamakhya	Assam
12.	Udaipur City	Rajasthan
13.	Faridabad	Haryana
14.	Jammu Tawi	Jammu & Kashmir
15.	Secunderabad	Andhra Pradesh
16.	Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Ranchi	Jharkhand
18.	Chennai Central	Tamil Nadu
19.	Kozhikode	Kerala
20.	Yashwantpur	Karnataka
21.	Bangalore Cantt	Karnataka
22.	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh

In the first phase of 23 stations, bids for Jammu Tawi and Kozhikode Railway Stations have been opened on 12.07.2017 and 24.07.2017 respectively.

Further, a dedicated organization *viz.* Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) has been set up to undertake redevelopment of stations to international standards. 12 stations *viz.* Amritsar (Punjab), Anand Vihar (Delhi), Bijwasan (Delhi), Baiyappanahalli (Karnataka), Chandigarh (Punjab), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Gandhinagar (Rajasthan), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Habibganj (Madhya Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra), Surat (Gujarat) and Shivajinagar (Maharashtra) have been entrusted to IRSDC for redevelopment.

The work of Habibganj Railway Station has been started. A contract of civil engineering works for redevelopment of Gandhinagar Railway Station along with construction of a 300-room hotel on the air space of the station has also been awarded

and ground-breaking done. The work is in progress. Bids for Surat Railway Station have been opened on 05.06.2017.

For Bhubaneswar (Odisha) Railway Station, the redevelopment of station has been taken through State Government. The State Government has directed Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) to take up this project. BDA is in the process of finalization of consultant for Bhubaneswar station redevelopment work.

#### **Textiles India-2017 exhibition**

2398. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director of the Korea Federation of Textile Industries (KOFOTI) has expressed hope for better trade relations between India and South Korea;

(b) if so, the details of Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed between domestic and international organisations from textiles industry and Government, including Government to Government (G2G) MoUs; and

(c) the number of international and domestic exhibitors and buyers from various countries who participated in the Textiles India-2017 exhibition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A country session was held with the Republic of Korea on 30th June, 2017 as a part of the Textiles India-2017 international event. Issues relating to textile trade were deliberated upon during the session. Apart from the country sessions held with Korea, Russia and Bangladesh, 65 MoUs were signed by various textile institutions, councils, organisations of India with both domestic agencies/institutions and international agencies from countries such as China, Australia, Bangladesh, Japan on information exchange, cooperation in textile trade, etc.

(c) Over 1500 international and domestic buyers and more than 1000 exhibitors participated in the Textiles India-2017.

#### **Special package for Knitwear industry**

2399. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to announce a package for Knitwear industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the sops and discounts being given to knitwear workers as a part of the package, the details thereof?