

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 19415/19416 Ahmedabad-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Express (weekly) *via* Amritsar has been introduced w.e.f. 25.01.2015 to facilitate the business and religious tourism to Gujarat. Introduction of additional train from Amritsar to Ahmedabad is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

Bengaluru Suburban Railway System

1571. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the suburban railway system in Bengaluru; and

(b) whether Government would provide special financial assistance to make the suburban railway system a reality for Bengaluru, given the importance of additional public transport due to rapid growth of Bengaluru?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Ministry of Railways and Government of Karnataka on 16.01.2017 for development of Suburban Rail System in Bengaluru in accordance with Policy on Indian Railway Suburban Rail System. Accordingly, two works have been identified by State Government *i.e.* (i) Conversion of 15 existing short distance passenger trains with 12 cars MEMU trains, and (ii) Enhancement of maintenance facilities for MEMU shed at Banaswadi. Both these projects have been approved by the Ministry of Railways.

Manufacturing of Train Sets

1572. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to manufacture its own train sets which can run at a speed of 160 kilometre per hour, if so, the details thereof;

(b) since when this project has been in progress and whether this project has attained its proposed timeline, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Ministry has ensured that our present railway tracks are capable enough to handle these fast moving trains, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) A Project for acquisition of 15 Train sets was sanctioned in Railway Budget of 2015-16. Two stage bidding process was carried out for procurement cum maintenance of EMU Train Sets. Five bidders qualified

in the Request for Qualification (RFQ) stage concluded on 12th September, 2015. However, no bid was received in the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage on the bid due date of May 2, 2016. Now, Fifteen Train sets, fit to run 160 kmph, have been planned for production in Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, over the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

(c) At present, the section between Hazrat Nizamuddin and Agra Cantt. is capable to handle 160 kmph speed. In addition, two works of speed raising for 160 kmph/200 kmph have been included in Railway's works program 2017-18 for New Delhi-Howrah (including Kanpur-Lucknow) and New Delhi-Mumbai Central routes (including Vadodara-Ahmedabad).

Bidding for redevelopment of railway stations

1573. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are very soon going to bid 25 railway stations for redevelopment;

(b) if so, the details of each of the 25 stations so identified for redevelopment, with particular reference to those in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether redevelopment will be done on PPP model or by Railways on its own; and

(d) by when the entire process of redevelopment will be over and its estimated cost and from where Railways are going to pool the resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Railways 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
4.	Mumbai Central	Maharashtra
5.	Bandra Terminus	Maharashtra
6.	Borivali	Maharashtra