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Length of railway network

*11. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway network in the country, in kilometres, passenger and dedicated freight corridor-wise;

(b) the total length of railway network in the country which require repair, passenger and dedicated freight corridor-wise;

(c) whether major routes of Railways' network have more trains operating per day than the designated capacity currently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Ministry to remedy this?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Indian Railways presently does not have dedicated Passenger and Freight Corridors. Both Passenger and Freight Services run on the entire network of Indian Railways comprising of 67,368 Route Kilometres as on 31.03.2017.

(b) Indian Railways have both *i.e.* Passenger and Freight type of traffic on its network. As on 01.04.2017, 7546 Km. of track length on Indian Railways is sanctioned for track renewal.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. These are 7 identified trunk routes across the country which are also termed as High Density Routes *viz.* (1) Delhi–Howrah (2) Howrah–Mumbai (3) Mumbai–Delhi (4) Delhi–Guwahati (5) Delhi–Chennai (6) Chennai–Howrah and (7) Chennai–Mumbai.

A number of steps have been taken to remove bottlenecks and augment track capacity:

- (1) Railways have a large number of sanctioned projects under the plan heads of doubling, new line, gauge conversion and traffic facility works to decongest routes. These include 177 New Line works, 58 Gauge Conversion works, 256 Double Line works, 570 Traffic Facility works and 112 Electrification works.
- (2) Total outlay for New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Traffic Facility works for the year 2017-18 is ₹21,198 crore, ₹3,884 crore, ₹18,001 crore and ₹3,088 crore respectively.

- (3) Two Dedicated Freight Corridors – the Eastern and Western Corridors-spanning a total length of 3,360 Kilometers are under construction. The two corridors are the 1,856 route km. Eastern Corridor and 1,504 route km. Western Corridor.

**Transfer of a section of railway lines from
Thiruvananthapuram Division**

*12. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways intend to transfer a part of railway lines in Thiruvananthapuram Division to adjoining division in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether this is against the assurance given by authorities to Kerala when there was a similar move earlier; and

(c) whether Railways propose to introduce more trains along the new Palakkad-Pollachi broad gauge route as desired by passengers and businessmen in both Tamil Nadu and Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal in the Ministry of Railways to change the jurisdiction of either Madurai or Thiruvananthapuram Divisions of Southern Railway Zone.

(c) To cater to the needs of passengers of Palakkad-Pollachi section, 03 pairs of train services have been provided on the section, with effect from 01.11.2017, by extending the following trains *via*. Palakkad-Pollachi:—

(i) 22651/22652 Chennai Central-Pollachi Express up to Palakkad.

(ii) 16343/16344 Thiruvananthapuram-Palakkad Amritha Express up to Maduari.

(iii) 56769/56770 Tiruchendur-Palani Passenger up to Palakkad.

Besides, introduction of trains is an on-going process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, commercial viability and availability of resources.

Committee to study demands of rural postal employees

†*13. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has constituted a Committee to study the demands of rural postal employees working in various parts of the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.