

implementation on complete 60,000 Route Kilometers (RKMs) on Broad Gauge (BG) network of Indian Railways subject to expenditure on this project to be made only after following due processes/mandatory approvals and sanctions.

(c) With a view to increasing speed of trains in Indian Railways, “Mission Raftaar” has been announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17. The mission envisages a target of doubling of average speed of freight trains in next 5 years.

Action Plan for improving mobility and increasing average speed of freight trains includes right powering of freight trains, introduction of twin-pipe in wagons, reduction in speed restrictions, construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road under Bridges (RUBs) etc.

Procurement of wagons

1258. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to go in for large scale induction of wagons to meet the growing demand for different sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that wagons of rakes would have to be procured from the sources approved by Railways to meet the technical standards;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the clients would have to take route-specific permission from Railways before buying them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One e-tender for procurement of 21,758 wagons has been floated, which is due for opening on 02.08.2018.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Railways has recently formulated a policy on General Purpose Wagon Investment Scheme (GPWIS). As per this policy, the rakes inducted under GPWI scheme shall run on pre approved circuits. It will have associated loading and unloading point(s) over specific route(s) or close circuit(s) as approved by the Railways and will be allowed to load any commodity in the approved circuit.

Based on the commodity flows, various Zonal Railways would be clubbed into Groups for each type of rolling stock. The Empty Return Ratio (ERR) for the stock

originating and terminating within such a group of the zones is calculated and only those circuits are approved where the ERR is at par or better (*i.e.* ERR is less) than the benchmark ERR for the said group of Zones.

Construction/reconstruction of railway stations

†1259. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of new railway stations constructed and the number of railway stations reconstructed/expanded from the year 2014 till date during the regime of current Government along with the increase in number of railway passengers recorded and the number of new trains operated during these four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Train services in Manipur

1260. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would extend passenger train services to Jiribam and then upto Tupul/Imphal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the trail run of Jiribam-Tupul/Imphal line has been successfully completed and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for delay in train services in Manipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) At present, one pair of passenger train namely 55665/55666 Silchar-Vangaichungpao Passenger is operating on Silchar-Jiribam-Vangaichungpao section. Beyond Vangaichungpao *i.e.* Vangaichungpao-Tupul/Imphal section is still under construction and is targeted for completion by March, 2021. As such, extension of train beyond Vangaichungpao is not feasible, at present.

Rail accidents

1261. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail accidents/derailments occurred in various Railway Zones during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and Zone-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.