

Delay in land acquisition

1737. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to review further investments in new lines that have been stuck for a long period due to delay in land acquisition;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways would start manual work and tendering of contracts only after the entire parcel of land needed for the projects has been acquired;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways have requested the State Governments to initiate or expedite the land acquisition process so that project activities may continue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Indian Railways have a number of projects where considerable investments have been made but returns are not forthcoming due to land acquisition problems. Therefore, it has been decided that the commencement of physical work for New Line projects shall be taken up only after completion of land acquisition. However, General Managers of Zonal Railways have been empowered to invite tenders if they are certain of the possibility of land acquisition in a reasonable time-frame. For this, a written assurance from the State Government will be required by General Managers of Zonal Railways. General Managers of Zonal Railways have also been empowered to review the projects that have remained in limbo for long period for various reasons. Chief Secretaries of State Governments have also been requested to take necessary steps in this regard to expedite execution work of new lines.

ROB near Vidya Vihar railway station

1738. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Road Over Bridge (ROB) is proposed near the Vidya Vihar railway station on the Central Railway Suburban network in Mumbai;

(b) the salient features of this ROB project; and

(c) by when this ROB is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The proposal of construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Vidya