

Completion of the project is dependent upon many factors such as land acquisition, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, cutting of trees. Since many of these factors are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways, timeline for completion of the project is not feasible to be fixed.

Rating of railway zones

2708. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to give rating to its various zones;

(b) if so, the details of this move and parameters under which each zone is going to be assessed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that rating of its 16 zones was done by Railway Board between April and December, 2016;

(d) if so, the details of such rating, with particular reference to South Central Railway Zone; and

(e) the manner in which Railways are going to reward the performing zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) There is no existing practice to give ratings to various Railway zones. However, to further assign greater accountability to the Zonal Railways and also to ensure that decision making at field level gets expedited, Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) are being signed between Secretary, Railway Board and General Managers of all the Zonal Railways separately, since 2016-17. Under these agreements, all the Zonal Railways, including South Central Railway, undertake to achieve the targets set in the MOU. Performance of Zonal Railways is evaluated through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) mentioned in the MOU relating to operational and financial performance, capacity enhancement, capacity utilization and manpower. The MOU also entails self-assessment of performance by General Managers in respect of their zones on a monthly basis based on the performance indicators, highlighting areas of concern and corrective action planned to meet performance gaps.

Performance of Train-18

2709. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of India's first high speed train known as Train-18 has been satisfactory and is progressing as per schedule; and

(b) if so, the details regarding its speed limit and the routes on which it is proposed to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The trial has been conducted upto a maximum operational speed of 160 kmph. However, the actual speed in service will depend upon the section where this train is put into service. The first Train-18 rake is proposed to be introduced on Delhi-Varanasi sector, with maximum speed of 130 KMPH.

**Rail connectivity between Hyderabad-Amaravati
and Hyderabad-Vijayawada**

2710. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new rail lines or new trains have been started between Hyderabad and Amaravati, new capital of Andhra Pradesh, to provide rapid rail connectivity as envisaged under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal with Government to run additional trains between Hyderabad and Vijayawada in view of increasing traffic between these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) New line project of Vijayawada-Guntur-Amaravathi was included in Pink book of 2017-18 subject to requisite approvals. Detailed project report (DPR) for 56.53 Km new line project has been prepared. As per DPR, the approximate cost of the project is ₹ 1732.56 crore. Inter ministerial consultation for the project has been taken up.

(c) To cater to the needs of the passengers of Hyderabad-Vijayawada sector, frequency of 12795/12796 Vijayawada-Lingampalli Express has been increased from 6 days a week to daily *w.e.f.* 04.11.2018. However, at present, there is no proposal for introduction of new train between Hyderabad and Vijayawada.