

- (b) whether Railways is planning to run high speed trains in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the routes selected for the purpose, particularly in the eastern part of the country;
- (d) whether it is a fact that only 0.3 per cent of tracks are fit to handle trains running at the speed of 160 km per hour;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the measures taken to repair the tracks first for use of high speed trains like Train-18?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The total length of rail tracks in the country, as on 31.03.2017, is 1,21,407 track kilometer.

(b) and (c) Government of India has sanctioned Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project with the estimated cost of ₹ 1,08,000 crore with technical and financial assistance of Government of Japan.

In addition, Government has identified the following routes connecting four major metros and growth centers of the country for feasibility studies for high-speed rail:—

(i) Delhi-Mumbai; (ii) Delhi-Kolkata; (iii) Mumbai-Chennai; (iv) Delhi-Nagpur segment of Delhi-Chennai; (v) Mumbai-Nagpur segment of Mumbai-Kolkata; and (vi) Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Running of high speed trains is decided on specific routes of Indian Railways, only after conducting necessary trials. Required improvements in the field of track, signal and traction are carried out as per trial reports.

(f) Rajdhani and other important trains are already running on same route. Routine maintenance of track is done, alongwith requisite speed restriction wherever required for conducting trial of Train-18.

Revamping vendorship licensing process

1416. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to revamp the vendorship licensing process at railway platforms;
- (b) if so, the detailed State-wise list of nodal agencies and officers appointed in this regard;

(c) the details about the progress made so far; and

(d) the details about the time-frame for the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, instructions have been issued empowering Zonal Railways to grant platform vending permission to Food Plazas, Refreshment Rooms and other Static Catering Stalls at stations depending upon the local requirements of catering services of passengers.

Action against corrupt railway employees/officers

1417. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any details about the railway employees/officers being charged for corruption in last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the complete details about the action taken against these employees/officers so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) As a result of preventive checks, decoy checks and investigations of complaints referred to Vigilance Directorate by CBI and other such agencies involving cases of irregularities including suspected corruption, infringement of rules, violation of laid down procedure and non-adherence to guidelines, the following officials were taken up under D&AR action during the last 3 years:—

| Years | No. of officials charged |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 2015 | 6716 |
| 2016 | 6070 |
| 2017 | 5858 |

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The details of action taken against officials (including cases brought forward from previous year) under the Railway Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 1968, is as under:—