

(b) if so, as per present status, in how many projects cost has escalated due to delay in timely completion of project and amount of cost which has been escalated, project-wise; and

(c) whether any railway officer has been found responsible for above-mentioned delay and the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) At present, 505 Railway projects including 185 New Lines, 57 Gauge Conversion and 263 Doubling Projects are in different stages of planning/sanction/execution. The completion of railway projects requires acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, various statutory clearances etc. leading to time and cost overrun.

Further, Railway cannot be considered responsible for delay and cost escalation due to slow progress of projects, as many of these factors involve participation of departments/agencies other than Railways.

Delay in operationalisation of Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express

740. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-operationalisation of the Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express promised by Government in the Railway budget of 2016-17 till date;

(b) the anticipated date by which the train would begin operations; and

(c) the details of the fare of the Tejas Express, as decided by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) During the Railway Budget 2016-17, the then Hon'ble Minister of Railways announced the introduction of four new type of train services which *inter alia* included Tejas Express. Subsequent to this announcement, it was decided to introduce 12585/12586 Lucknow Jn.-New Delhi Tejas Express. The operationalisation of 12585/12586 Lucknow Jn.-New Delhi Tejas Express was pending due to non-availability of rake. As of now, the train is ready for introduction and earnest efforts are being made to introduce the train at the earliest.

(c) The basic fare of AC Chair car and Executive class of Tejas Express is 1.20 times of the basic fare of respective classes of Shatabdi Express trains.