

- (ii) Railway portion and approach work in progress (State Government): 4 Nos.
- (iii) RoBs where estimate awaited from State Government, to be sanctioned or joint alignment yet to be finalized: 27 Nos.

(c) Normally, Railway undertakes construction of RoBs in Railway portion whereas approaches are being constructed by State Government. Generally, there is no problem of construction of ROBs in Railway portion. However, it is difficult to construct RoBs on approaches because it depends upon many factors such as availability of land, removal of encroachments, fixing the alignment of approaches, allocation of requisite funds etc. The time schedule for (9 RoBs) completion by State Government remains uncertain (for approaches). Therefore, it is not possible to fix the time schedule for construction of RoBs/RUBs projects as a whole.

**Assigning National Rail and Transport Institute the title of
Institute of National Importance**

3124. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Ministry to make the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) an institute of national importance and bring it one of the top 500 institutions and then one of the top 100 institutions in the world;
- (b) whether the Ministry sent the proposal before the Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) of the UGC for giving it the tag of an institution of national importance;
- (c) if so, the recommendation of the EEC;
- (d) whether there are any plans to set up NRTI centre in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Notification declaring National Rail and Transportation Institute as deemed to be university under de novo category was issued by the Ministry for Human Resource Development on 26th July, 2018. The University was operationalised on 5th September 2018 with 2 Undergraduate courses viz. B.Sc. in Transportation Technology and BBA in Transport Management. Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with 5 global Universities - (i) Cornell University, USA, (ii) University of California, Berkeley, USA, (iii) University of

Birmingham, UK, (iv) Russian University of Transport, Russia and (v) Saint Petersburg State Transport University, Russia.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Presently the University has been established at one place, Vadodara.

Subsidy on rail tickets

3125. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in an effort to mop up possible savings, Railways proposes to invoke the sense of sympathy of affluent passengers to forego the subsidy on their ticket, on the lines of 'give-it-up' campaign of the Ministry of Petroleum for forgoing (LPG) subsidies;

(b) whether Railways would also appeal to senior citizens to consider not to avail concession/subsidies on their tickets for contributing to Railways' savings mobilisation drive; and

(c) the other salient features of the proposed scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to passenger fare and freight rates, to improve the passenger earnings and decrease in the recurring loss in passenger business, is an on-going process.

(b) Yes, Sir. Currently, concession of 50% and 40% on base fare is given to women and men senior citizen passengers respectively. They have been given following options of giving-up this concession:-

- (i) Giving up concession (100% give-it-up)
- (ii) Giving up 50% concession (50% give-it-up)
- (c) The scheme is under consideration.