

**Extension of route of Tejas train**

85. SHRI A. VIJAY KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to extend Tejas train from Chennai to Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is contemplating to reduce the running time of Tejas train for Chennai/Madurai/Chennai; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) 22671/22672 Chennai Egmore-Madurai Tejas Express takes 6 hour and 30 minute to complete its journey in each direction. Reduction in its journey time is not operationally feasible, at present.

**Pending railway projects**

86. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects pending or not taken up for execution despite laying of foundation stones in the country, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the present status of the said projects, project-wise;

(c) by when these projects are likely to be taken up and completed; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Indian Railways have taken up 491 Railway Projects (New Line. Gauge Conversion & Doubling works) including 78 Projects in Uttar Pradesh. These Projects are in different stages of planning/sanction/execution. State-wise details of such projects are as under:—

| Name of State                  | Number of Projects* |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Assam and North Eastern Region | 20                  |
| Andhra Pradesh                 | 31                  |

| Name of State     | Number of Projects* |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Bihar             | 55                  |
| Chhattisgarh      | 17                  |
| Delhi             | 06                  |
| Gujarat           | 40                  |
| Haryana           | 10                  |
| Himachal Pradesh  | 04                  |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 03                  |
| Jharkhand         | 31                  |
| Karnataka         | 35                  |
| Kerala            | 09                  |
| Madhya Pradesh    | 40                  |
| Maharashtra       | 37                  |
| Odisha            | 35                  |
| Punjab            | 14                  |
| Rajasthan         | 30                  |
| Telangana         | 13                  |
| Tamil Nadu        | 22                  |
| Uttar Pradesh     | 78                  |
| Uttarakhand       | 04                  |
| West Bengal       | 54                  |

\* Some of the projects fall in more than one State.

(c) The Projects are already in different stages of planning/sanction/execution. However, the completion of Railway projects requires clearances from various departments of State Government and Central Ministries for acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life, shifting of utilities etc. for which, it is difficult to give any definite time frame for completion of project.

(d) For timely completion of the projects, Railway is regularly monitoring the Projects. Further, Railway is holding regular meetings with State Government and concerned Central

Government officials on various issues involving alignment, land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearances, law & order problems, shifting of utilities etc.

For important projects, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc., institutional financing has also been done by arranging loan from M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for ₹ 1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for fast track essential projects.

#### **Demand for modernization of rake points**

87. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of required infrastructure in the existing rake points, provision of new rake points, and the two point rakes, supply and allocation of chemicals, fertilizers and foodgrains are badly affected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken on the long-standing demand for modernization of existing rake points, notification of new rake points and provision of two-point rakes at proposed places?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Neither the name of the State nor the proposed places are mentioned. However, modernization of existing rake points, notification of new rake points and provision of two point rakes is a need based ongoing process subject to commercial justification, operational requirement, technical feasibility and resource availability.

#### **Catering services in trains**

88. DR. ANIL AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers and trains in which catering services are being provided to passengers, zone-wise;

(b) the number of trains which have more than 1000 kilometre journey distance and are having no pantry cars;

(c) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to conduct food audits to maintain quality of food in trains and at stations; and