

As on 01.04.2019, Indian Railways have taken up 189 New Line Projects across the country through rail network. These projects are in different stages of planning/execution/approval.

(c) Yes, Sir. Passenger train services are provided on newly connected sections after receiving sanctions from Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), subject to operational feasibility. Accordingly, 259 train services have been introduced on the new lines commissioned, since 2014, on the Indian Railways Network.

Free Wi-Fi service at railway stations

97. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that RailTel is turning railway stations into digital hubs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that RailTel is considering to provide free Wi-Fi at many more stations across the country including Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RailTel, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Ministry of Railways, has provided high speed Wi-Fi services at 1606 stations, out of which 198 stations have been commissioned in agreement with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. High Speed Wi-Fi facility has already been provided at 72 stations in Kerala. Further remaining 4882 stations across the country (out of which 40 are located in Kerala) will be covered by RailTel for provision of high speed Wi-Fi facility. With this, 100% feasible stations will be covered with high speed Wi-Fi facility through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/Charity and Government funds.

Modernization of railway stations

98. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have proposed to modernize all the railway stations in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Railways propose to construct new railway station in any States of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Modernisation/ upgradation of Railway station in Indian Railways is a continuous and on-going process. This has been undertaken from time-to-time under various modernization schemes such as Model Station Scheme, Modern Station Scheme and Adarsh Station Scheme. The ' Model Station Scheme' (June, 1999 to November, 2008) and the ' Modern Station Scheme' (2006-07 and 2007-08) have since been discontinued.

At present, upgradation of stations is undertaken under Adarsh Station Scheme. Selection of Railway stations under Adarsh Station Scheme is based on the identified need for upgradation of amenities. 1253 stations have been identified for development under Adarsh Station Scheme out of which 1103 railway stations have been developed so far and the remaining stations are planned to be developed by 2019-20.

Besides there are other policies initiatives by Indian Railways to provide improved facilities at all stations. 68 stations have been identified for soft upgradation and all 68 stations have been upgraded in the year 2018-19. The list is given in Statement (*See below*).

Recently, a separate policy has been made for development of stations under Station Redevelopment Programme through Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) on ' as is where is' basis. Government has approved Railways' proposal for redevelopment of railway stations by IRSDC as Nodal Agency, through simplified procedures and for longer lease tenure.' Accordingly, all the stations on Indian Railways have been entrusted to IRSDC and other Government agencies for undertaking the techno-economic feasibility studies. Based on the outcome of the feasibility studies, stations are planned to be taken up for redevelopment in phases especially the stations located in major cities, pilgrimage centres and important tourist destinations. Redevelopment of stations is planned though leveraging of commercial development of vacant land/air space in and around stations. Presently, work of redevelopment is in progress at Gandhinagar (Gujarat) and Habibganj (Madhya Pradesh) stations. Contracts for redevelopment have been awarded for Gomtinagar, Charbagh (Uttar Pradesh) and Puducherry (Union Territory of Puducherry) stations.

The expenditure on passenger amenities works is funded under Plan Head ' Passenger Amenities' . The allocation and expenditure under Plan Head ' Passenger Amenities' in IR during the financial year 2018-19 was ₹1657.86 crore and ₹1585.89 crore respectively.

(c) and (d) Construction and modernization of all the railway stations in the country is a need based ongoing process subject to commercial justification, operational requirement, technical feasibility and resource availability.

Statement

The list of stations upgraded in 2018-19

Lonawala, Burhanpur, Sholapur, Igatpuri, Wardha, Pune, Cuttack, Sambhalpur, Visakhapatnam, Patna, Barkakana, Mughalsarai, Bapudham Motihari, Hajipur, Patliputra, Sonpur, Asansol, Howrah, Sealdah, Allahabad, Jhansi, Mathura, Varanasi City, Izzatnagar, Gorakhpur, Darjling, Guwahati, New Tinsukia, Alipurduar, Rangiya, Ambala, Delhi Main, Shimla, Dehradun, Haridwar, Jaipur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Vijyawada, Guntur, Guntkal, Kurnool City, Warangal, Bilaspur, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Jharsuguda, Ranchi, Adra, Madurai, Kottayam, Chennai Egmore, Palghat, Tiruchirapalli, Salem, Yeshwantpur, Mysore, Dharwar, Jabalpur, Bhopal, Itarsi, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Vadodara, Ratlam, Bhavnagar City and Valsad.

Upgradation of railway stations

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

(a) the number of railway stations that have been decided to be upgraded to provide facilities at par with the airports, alongwith the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have fixed the criteria on the basis of which these railway stations would be redeveloped; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways through various agencies is undertaking techno-economic feasibility studies of Railway stations. Based on the outcome of these feasibility studies, stations are planned to be taken up for redevelopment in phases, especially the stations located in major cities, pilgrimage centres and important tourist destinations. The cost of station redevelopment project is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations. Presently, work of redevelopment is in progress at Gandhinagar (Gujarat)