

Shortage of rails

3923. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the shortage of rails has been bothering Railways for quite some time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is shortfall as against the demand of 15 lakh tonnes of rails, only half of thereof is available; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Railways to meet the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Rail infrastructure has been strengthened extensively during the last few years. Accordingly, rail supply is also increasing over the years. For renewal of rails in tracks and construction projects, 5.84, 6.46, 6.20, 8.74 and 10.50 lakh tonnes rail were supplied in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively.

(c) Supply of approximately 14.5 to 15 lakh tonnes rail is expected in 2019-20.

(d) Ministry of Steel has been requested to direct Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to further increase its production. In addition to SAIL, other private domestic manufacturer has been considered for rail supply since 2018-19.

Procurement of rail for track renewal

3924. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways has floated a global tender for 4.5 lakh metric tonnes of rails;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Railways has awarded the supply order in this regard; and
- (d) the time schedule fixed by Railways for delivery as the rails are urgently required by Railways for track renewals?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Railways, had