

(b) whether Government has made any arrangements for easy movement of passengers who face difficulty in moving from one platform to another due to construction work on platforms; and

(c) whether it is a fact that water gets logged in curved underpasses constructed by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) is targeted for completion in phases by December, 2021.

(b) WDFC alignment is not passing in between passenger platforms at any Indian Railways station. However, wherever Western DFC is passing near any Railway Station building, either Foot Over Bridges are being extended or passenger subways are being provided for movement of passengers from circulating area to passenger platform.

(c) Whenever the problem of water logging is encountered, it is addressed by deploying pump and sump arrangements or other appropriate solutions.

#### **Privatisation of sections of railways**

3935. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to privatise some sections of the Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Bullet train service between Delhi and Rajasthan**

†3936. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train services started in the State of Rajasthan during the last three years and the details thereof, year-wise;

(b) whether Government plans to start superfast bullet trains in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Railways is considering to introduce bullet train between Alwar district in Rajasthan and Delhi; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Indian Railways do not run trains on State-wise basis. However, during the period 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, Indian Railways have introduced 02 pairs, 11 pairs and 11 pairs of train services respectively, serving the stations located in the State of Rajasthan *i.e.* in all 24 pairs of train services during 2016-2019.

(b) and (c) A Bullet Train Project, Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) of 508 km. length has been sanctioned by the Government at an estimated cost of ₹1,08,000 crore.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. As of now, only MAHSR project has been sanctioned by the Government.

#### **Staff strength in railways**

3937. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that operations of trains are in a fix due to the lack of sufficient number of employees in Railways, if so, the steps taken to solve the issues;

(b) the details of recruitment conducted in Southern Railways during the period 2014-19, category and division-wise details thereof; and

(c) the details of total staff strength, filled and vacant, of different categories in Thiruvananthapuram and Palakkadu Divisions?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Sanctioned posts in all categories are more than the actual operational requirement because they include an element of Leave Reserve and Rest Givers. In addition, a lag in recruitment due to cycle of retirements, promotion, placing of indent for new recruitment cycle, various stages of recruitment, is also considered. Thus, operational requirements of Railways are duly taken care of.