

(d) Introduction of trains, including 'Vande Bharat Express' trains, is a continuous and ongoing process over Indian Railways subject to demand for travel, commercial justification and operational feasibility.

Railway projects in Maharashtra

3944. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects under implementation in the State of Maharashtra along with years of sanction of the projects, original costs of projects, revised costs of projects, as on date, fund released so far and spent on each project in the State;

(b) the reasons for the delay, if any, in completion of these projects, project-wise; and

(c) by when these railway projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As on 01.04.2019, 37 Railway projects including 16 New Lines, 4 Gauge Conversion and 17 Doubling/3rd Line/4th Line projects falling fully/partly in Maharashtra, are in different stages of planning/approval/execution. The total length of these projects is 5,843 km. and costing ₹69,181 crores. The total expenditure on these projects upto March, 2019 is ₹12,702 crores and length commissioned is 806 km. An outlay of ₹4,647 crores has been proposed for these projects in Budget 2019-20.

The details of all works in progress and new works including cost, funds spent on each project, allotment of funds and expenditure made are available in public domain on Indian Railways website *i.e.* www.indianrailways.gov.in>Ministry of Railways>Railway Board>About Indian Railways>Railway Board Directorates>Finance (Budget)>Railway-wise Works Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme-Regular Budget 2019-20.

(b) and (c) The timely completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities (both underground and over ground), statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic considerations, encountering unforeseen conditions like earthquake, flooding, excessive rains, strikes of labour, orders of Hon'ble

High Court, situation and conditions of working agencies/contractors etc. All these factors differ from project to project and affect the completion time and cost of the project. As such, firm completion time of the projects cannot be fixed at this stage.

Safai Karamchari employed in railways

3945. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to identify the number of Safai Karamchari working at the railway stations and other railway establishments in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, how many of them are railway employees and how many have been contractually employed by third party agencies;

(c) whether Government has received complaints of exploitation of contractual Safai Karamchari by the third party agencies in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Central Railway, Western Railway, Nagpur Division of South East Central Railway and Nanded Division of South Central Railway fall within the geographical jurisdiction of the State of Maharashtra. Information about number of employees engaged in cleaning/sanitation (both railway employees and on the payrolls of contractors) is available with all Railway Zones including those zones serving the State of Maharashtra.

(b) The number of Safai Karamcharis in Central Railway, Western Railway, Nagpur Division of South East Central Railway and Nanded Division of South Central Railway in the State of Maharashtra are as under:—

Regular Railway Servants	2,170
Contractually employed by third party agencies	8,481
TOTAL	10,651

(c) and (d) Only one complaint was received by Central Railway for less payment by contractor. Complaint had been redressed and Labour Enforcement Officer apprised in January, 2019.