

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Railway projects in Andhra Pradesh**

*368. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the railway projects under implementation in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (b) the status of those projects with estimated cost, expenditure incurred and the likely date of completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) As on 01.04.2019, 17 new line projects covering a length of 2027.44 km at a cost of ₹25767.39 Crores and 14 doubling projects covering a length of 2648.51 km at a cost of ₹26608.42 Crores, falling fully/partly in the State of Andhra Pradesh are in different stages of Planning/sanction/execution, out of which 186 Km New line and 79.17 Km doubling has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹7921.98 crores have been incurred till March 2019. Further, an outlay of ₹2921.88 crores has been proposed for these projects for the year 2019-20.

Details of all works in progress and new works including expenditure and proposed outlay on each project are made 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 & Rolling Stock Programme_Regular Budget 2019-20.

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, cooperation and zeal of State Government for early completion of project, encountering unforeseen conditions like earthquake, flooding, excessive rains, strikes of labour, orders of Hon'ble Courts, situation and conditions of working agencies/contractors etc. and all these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project, which is finally worked out at the completion stage.

Since, all these factors affect the completion time/cost of the projects and differ from project to project, therefore, it is extremely difficult to fix the confirmed timelines for completion of the projects at this stage.

In the overall interest of the nation and to ensure that projects are completed in time without cost overrun, lot of monitoring is done in Railways at various levels (field level, divisional level, zonal level and Board level) and regular meetings are held with the officials of State Government and concerned authorities to resolve the pending issues obstructing the progress of projects.

To ensure that projects are completed even before time, Railway has adopted the concept of incentives to the contractor in the form of bonus clause in contracts which will further enhance the pace of execution of projects.

For important projects, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc. institutional financing has been done by arranging loan of ₹1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

Facilities to farmers of border areas

*369. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any additional facilities are being provided to farmers of the border areas touching Pakistan who lost their crops in the firing from across the border; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Home Affairs is implementing Border Area Development Programme (BADP) which supports for development of community-based infrastructure including Agriculture and allied sector in border areas of the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir touching Pakistan.

Besides BADP, Centrally Sponsored Schemes like National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR), Sub Mission on Agriculture Mechanization (SMAM), etc are implemented by the concerned states in different districts including border districts touching Pakistan to increase production and productivity of field crops. These interventions covers all farmers of the border areas touching Pakistan without any specificity of loss of crops due to firing.