

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Punctuality of trains is accorded very high priority by Indian Railways. However, trains do get delayed not only due to the factors related to its internal working but also due to external factors which are beyond the control of Railways. In addition to asset failures, train running and punctuality is affected by factors such as line capacity, terminal capacity, constraints on account of inadequate infrastructure, increasing passenger and freight traffic, adverse weather conditions (fog, rains, breaches), intermittent natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, heavy rains, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates, law & order problems, miscreant activities such as theft of Railway assets, mid-section run over cases involving cattle and humans, etc.

17007/17008 Darbhanga-Secunderabad Express had been cancelled due to closure of Dhanbad -Chandrapura section on the advise of Director General of Mines Safety. To cater to the needs of the sector, a special train service *viz.* 07007/07008 Darbhanga-Secunderabad Express was provided *via* a longer route. The train is being restored *w.e.f.* 01.07.2019, as 17007/17008 Darbhanga-Secundrabad Express (*via* Dhanbad - Chandrapura), as a regular service. The punctuality is likely to improve on running the train as a regular service.

Apart from the above, Ranchi is connected to South Indian by one pair daily train services connecting to Chennai and Alleppey and one bi-weekly and one tri-weekly train connecting to KSR Bengaluru and one weekly train to Eernakulam.

As regards, introduction of “Vande Bharat Express” train service from Ranchi to Madurai, it is stated that there is no proposal to introduce such a service, at present.

Development of railway stations

879. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of development of railway stations in the country and allocation of fund made there for during the last three years;

(b) whether private players are allowed to participate in the programme and if so, the extent to which they participated during the period; and

(c) whether Government has finalised any action plan for development of all the major railway stations in the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Upgradation/modernization of stations on Indian Railways is a continuous and on-going process. Works

for improvement of passenger amenities are undertaken depending upon need, volume of passenger traffic and inter-se priority, subject to availability of funds. Various passenger amenities which, *inter-alia*, include improvement to facade of the station building, retiring room, waiting room (with bathing facilities), separate waiting room for ladies, landscaping of circulating area, earmarked parking, signages, Pay and Use toilets, Foot Over Bridge, ramps at entry to station etc. are provided at Railway stations which are identified for development under this scheme as per the respective category of the station.

Works for all passenger amenities at Railway stations are generally funded under Plan Head - 53 ' Passenger Amenities' . The details of funds allocated under Budgetary Sources for this Plan Head-53, over Indian Railways during the last three years *i.e.* 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are as under:

Years	Allocation
2016-17	₹ 917.82 crs.
2017-18	₹ 1470.84 crs.
2018-19	₹ 1657.86 crs.

(b) and (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, especially the stations located in major cities, pilgrimage centers and important tourist destinations. Most of the stations are planned for redevelopment with participation of Private players in a phased manner. Presently work of redevelopment is in progress at Habibganj(Bhopal) and Gandhi Nagar(Gujarat) Railway station. Contracts for redevelopment have been awarded for Gomtinagar, Charbagh (Uttar Pradesh) and Puducherry(Union Territory of Puducherry) stations.

Manufacturing of bullet trains

880. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the target set for manufacturing of bullet trains in the country;
- (b) the estimated cost of the train and area proposed to be covered by these trains; and
- (c) the details of financial planning and manufacturing of bullet train facility in the country?