

provision exists for free use of Railways' light trollies/hand barrows, wherever available, by Sahayaks (licensed porters) for carriage of passenger's luggage. Moreover, carrying luggage has been made easier at places due to provision of ramps and escalators. However, no proposal with regard to provision of upgraded tools for use of Sahayaks to carry heavy baggage of the passengers is under consideration in this Ministry, at present.

Redevelopment of Nellore station

906. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Nellore is one of the stations identified by Railways to be redeveloped in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the date of the proposal in this regard and the action taken by the Ministry so far; and
- (c) by when the redevelopment of Nellore station would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Tenders for redevelopment of Nellore Railway Station were invited and opened on 12th March 2019. However, no Bids were received. Redevelopment of stations are complex projects and are dependent on the response of developer's commercial aspects. No target date can be given at this stage.

Escalation of project cost due to delay

907. SHRIMATI AMBIKASONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is increase in cost of Railway projects due to delay in their completion;
- (b) if so, the of number of projects delayed in the last two years and the cost escalation, project-wise; and
- (c) whether any monitoring committee has been constituted to take corrective measures and to expedite the completion of projects by removing hurdles, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) At present 491 Railway projects including 189 New Lines, 55 Gauge Conversion and 247 Doubling Projects are in different stages of execution/planning/sanction.

The Total length of these projects is 48860.64 km. costing ₹6.476 lakh crore on which Commissioning of 9113 km. length and expenditure of ₹1.43 lakh crore has been done up to March. 2019.

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 affects the completion cost of the project, which is finally worked out at the completion stage.

In the overall interest of Nation and to ensure that project are completed in time without cost overrun, lot of monitoring is done in Railways at various level (field level, divisional level, zonal level and Board level) and regular meetings are done 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 project, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc. institutional financing has been done by arranging loan from M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for ₹1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

Running time of trains in Kerala

908. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to improve the running time of trains plying in Kerala under the Ministry' s ' Mission Raftaar' programme;