

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;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Improvement in running time of trains is not undertaken by Indian Railways on State-wise basis since Railway network cuts across State boundaries.

Action Plan for improving mobility under “Mission Raftaar” programme includes removal of speed restrictions, construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs), right powering of trains, introduction of twin-pipe in wagons and replacement of conventional trains by Main Line Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains and Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) trains.

Under this programme, 26 Express trains Originating from/Terminating at/Passing through the stations located in the State of Kerala have been speeded up from 5 to 30 minutes. Besides, 24 level crossings have been eliminated in Kerala during the last 2 years.

During 2017-18, three Nos. of Permanent Speed Restrictions have been relaxed/removed resulting in time saving of 5.30 minutes and during 2018-19, thirteen Nos. of Permanent Speed Restrictions have been relaxed/removed resulting in time saving of 15.20 minutes in Kerala State.

Improvement in rail services in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

909. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of expansion of new passenger train services, electrification work and improvement in passenger amenities in various railway stations falling under the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, in the last three years;
- (b) whether Government would introduce more passenger trains from Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam towards North India in view of persistent demand; and
- (c) if so, whether it would be included in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Indian Railways do not run trains on State-wise basis as railway network straddles across State boundaries. However, the details of Mail/Express trains (in pairs) introduced during the last three years serving the stations located in the State of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (originating/terminating basis) is as under: