

Various developers have shown interest in redevelopment of stations on Indian Railways.

Presently, work of redevelopment is in progress at Gandhinagar(Gujarat) and Habibganj(Bhopal) stations.

Station redevelopment program is first of its kind and complex in nature and requires detailed techno-financial feasibility studies and various statutory clearances from local bodies etc. Therefore, no time-frame can be indicated at this stage.

Rail accidents in 2018-19

2990. SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that safety has been given the highest priority and the year 2018-19 saw the lowest ever rail accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that just 0.3 per cent of India's railway tracks spread over 60,000 km. is fit to handle trains running at the speed of upto 160 kms. per hour; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to ensure safe running of trains. Indian Railways have taken several key measures, as a result of which the consequential train accidents have decreased from 135 in 2014-15 to 59 in 2018-19. These are lowest ever figures in the history of Indian Railways.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Running of high speed trains is decided on specific routes of Indian Railways, only after conducting necessary trials. Required improvements in the field of track, signal and traction are carried out as per trial report.

Renewal of tracks in 2018-19

2991. SHRI A. MOHAMMEDJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that Railways carried out record number of renewal of tracks in 2018-19;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Railways has set a target to complete the renewal of old rails; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) During 2018-19, track renewal for 4181 Complete Track Renewal (CTR) units was carried out, which is exceeding the progress achieved in any of the last 10 financial years.

(c) and (d) Railway tracks are replaced through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Track renewal works are undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in the Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual on age/condition basis viz. traffic carried in terms of gross million tonnes, incidence of rail fracture/failure, wear of rails, corrosion of rails, maintainability of track as per standards etc.

Pending railway projects in Tamil Nadu

2992. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects under implementation in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) the status of those projects along with the estimated cost, expenditure incurred and the scheduled date of their completion;

(c) the reasons for cost escalation and time escalation in those projects; and

(d) whether any timeline is fixed for completion of all these projects including provision of sufficient funds in the budget, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Presently, 22 projects, covering a length of 2,519 Km costing ₹21,579 crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are in different stages of planning/sanction/execution. Details of these projects are as under:

09 New Line projects are covering a length of 871 km costing ₹11,612 crore. An expenditure of ₹453 crore has been incurred upto March, 2019 and an outlay of ₹50 crore has been provided for these projects in 2019-20.