

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Manpower position on Railways (as on 01.04.2019) is as under:

Sanctioned Strength	On-roll	Vacancy
15,24,127	12,17,900	3,06,227

(c) No, Sir. Seven (7) Employment Notifications for 2.94 lakh vacancies have been issued and recruitment process for four (4) Employment Notifications is under completion. 90,890 persons have joined/ will be joining in Zones and Divisions. Balance 62,928 are expected to complete the joining process before the end of financial year. Recruitment process for the other three (3) notifications has also started. For Gazetted posts, indents of 601 vacancies have been placed on UPSC which includes 200 doctors.

(d) and (e) Railway employees retiring in 2019-20 and 2020-21 are approximately 47,000 and 41,000 respectively.

#### **Upgrading Kozhikode station to international standards**

2989. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have taken measures to upgrade some railway stations including Kozhikode in Kerala and develop them to international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status in this regard;

(c) the details of developers who have shown keenness in this project; and

(d) whether the progress in this regard is delayed and if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) 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 in phases. The cost of station redevelopment project is to be met by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the stations.

Kozhikode Railway Station in Kerala has been entrusted to Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) for redevelopment. RLDA has initiated process for engaging consultant for feasibility study, detailed Master planning, urban designing engineering and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

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;