

Commando training to RPF

†1894. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government proposes to provide commando training to the Railway Protection Force (RPF) constables;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has already established three (03) companies of Commandos for Railway Security (CORAS) which were inaugurated on 14.08.2019 at New Delhi. These personnel were trained in various Commando Institutes of National repute such as Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare (C1JW) Course at North Eastern Police Academy, Meghalaya; Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare Course at Assam Rifles, Diphu, Assam; Anti Terrorist and VIP Protection Commando Course at Indo Tibetan Border Police, Mussoorie and Police Special Tactical Course (PSTC) at National Security Guard, Manesar, Haryana.

Further, it is submitted, that all the newly recruited RPF Constables will be imparted one month Commando Training, in due course.

Railways electrification work in SWR

1895. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to take up electrification work in various sections of South Western Railways (SWR) to increase the speed of trains by 10 to 15 per cent;
- (b) if so, the number of routes proposed for electrification in SWR and the time-frame for completion of electrification work of all such proposed rail routes; and
- (c) the status of ongoing railway electrification works in the State of Karnataka along with the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has planned to electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) Routes of Indian Railways by December, 2023 including routes of South Western Railway (SWR). Electrification of Rail routes is one of the initiatives to increase the speed of trains.

(b) 14 railway electrification projects of 2.782 km. length costing ₹3,066 crore falling fully/partly in SWR are in progress. Out of this, commissioning of 156 km. has been achieved. Work is in progress on balance sections in different stages of execution/ planning and planned for completion by December, 2023 in phased manner. 375 Route Kilometer (RKM) have been electrified during 2014-19 in SWR against 46 RKM electrified during 2009-14.

(c) 16 electrification projects of 3.379 km. length with costing of ₹3,772 crore falling fully/partly in Karnataka are in Progress. Out of which, commissioning of 475 km. has been achieved. 430 RKM have been electrified during 2014-19 in Karnataka against 90 RKM electrified during 2009-14

Private trains in the country

1896. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of private trains being operated in country at present;
- (b) whether Railways would provide private trains with train compartments, engine, loco running staff etc. for its operation;
- (c) if so, charges levied on each private train for its operation using the infrastructure provided by Railways;
- (d) whether it is a fact that normal train services would be affected by private trains as the normal trains are delayed to make the private trains run on time; and
- (e) the profit Government has received so far from private players by allowing them to operate trains using the infrastructure of Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) At present, no scheduled passenger train service is being operated by Private Operators over Indian Railways network.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Railways have constituted a Group of Secretaries (GoS) in 2019, with a term of one year, inter-alia, to advise on the terms and conditions for permitting private passenger train operators to operate trains with world class technology