

Introduction of more bullet trains

2352. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have considered any proposal for operating more number of bullet trains (fast trains) in different railway zones/routes of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress status of the earlier declared bullet train project and the time by when it will be operational?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) At present, Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail corridor is the only High Speed Rail Project which has been sanctioned by the government and it is being executed with the technical and financial assistance from Government of Japan.

(c) Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project is being executed by the SPV namely National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL). This project is targeted for completion by December, 2023. However, the completion of a railway project is dependent on many factors such as pace of land acquisition by state government, shifting of infringing utilities, law and order situation, statutory clearances, encountering unforeseen circumstances, litigation in courts, climatic conditions etc.

Complete digitization of Railways

†2353. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is mulling over complete digitization of Railways; and
- (b) if so, by when it would be possible and the details of the benefits that Railways may get as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Indian Railway (IR) has persistently adopted information Technology (IT), to facilitate digitization of its vital functional areas. IR has developed and implemented various IT applications to be able to offer convenient access to information and services.

The IT applications being developed and used over Indian Railways can be broadly classified as:

- Passenger and customer facing applications

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Train operations related applications
- Asset management applications
- Human Resource Management applications

Adoption of IT is a continuous process and has helped Indian Railways to deliver its services in an efficient, cost effective manner allowing greater transparency and promoting convenience for passengers.

Discontinuation of push cart service at Chhattisgarh railway stations

†2354. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that push cart service has been discontinued at various railway stations, including the Durg station of Chhattisgarh, as a result of which many people have lost their jobs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government would consider restarting the push cart service in view of the jobs lost; and

(c) if so, by when it would be started again, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) As per Catering Policy 2017, no new catering trolley (push carts) are to be allotted while the existing ones may be continued on selective basis. This provision has been made to reduce congestion on platforms. Due to space constraint, trolleys at few stations have been discontinued. However, no trolleys have been discontinued at Durg station of Chhattisgarh.

Further, Railways have granted platform vending permission to the static units at stations which has provided opportunity for more vendors. Railways have no proposal to restart the catering trolleys.

Pending railway works in Konkan region

†2355. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work of many ROBs/ROUs in the districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra are pending;

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