

(d) whether there is any plan to further abolish vacant posts, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

Trains in Maharashtra

785. DR. BHAGWAT KARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains announced and started which originate from the State of Maharashtra during the last five years along with the details thereof;

(b) the number of new railway tracks laid or being laid in Maharashtra with special reference to Marathwada region during the said period along with the details of their progress; and

(c) the average budget expenditure on various railway projects undertaken in Maharashtra during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Indian Railways does not run trains on State-wise basis as Railway Network straddles across State boundaries. However, during the last five years (01.04.2015 to 31.03.2020), 122 trains (in single) have been introduced serving the various stations located in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Railway Projects are sanctioned Zonal Railway-wise; not State-wise / Region-wise as Railway Network spans across various State boundaries. However, presently, 39 projects, costing ₹86,696 crore for 6,722 km length, falling fully/partly in the State of Maharashtra including Marathwada, are in different stages of Planning/sanction/execution. Out of which, commissioning of 1,026 km length has been achieved and an expenditure of ₹17,841 crore has been incurred upto March, 2020.

During 2009-14, 292 km length of projects falling fully/partly in the State of Maharashtra, have been commissioned which increased to 596 km during 2014-19, which is 104% more than commissioning during 2009-14.

Details of all ongoing projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website *i.e.* www.indianrailways.gov.in >Ministry of Railways >Railway Board >About Indian Railways >Railway Board Directorates >Finance (Budget) > Pink Book (Year)> Railway wise Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme (RSP).

Average annual Budget allocation on infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Maharashtra, during 2014-19 has increased to ₹4,801 crore per year from ₹1,171 crore per year (during 2009-14), which is 310% more as compared to average annual allocation of 2009-14. The Budget outlay during 2019-20 has further increased to ₹7,281 crore, which is 522% more with respect to 2009-14.

Status of Aurangabad - Ahmednagar - Pune railway line

786. DR. BHAGWAT KARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has any proposal to start a railway line between Aurangabad -Ahmednagar - Pune for growth of Marathwada region of Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the work on the said project has been started, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Railways for expeditious completion of the above project in a time-bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Survey for new lines between Aurangabad - Ahmednagar (115 km) and Ahmednagar - Pune (120 km) have been sanctioned in 2018-19. Survey works of both the projects have been taken up.

Depleting funds for MGNREGS

787. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government is drawn to the paper clipping published on 4August 2020 in a leading daily English newspaper under the heading "MGNREGS running out of funds", if so, the details thereof; and