

Value addition to railway assets

1556. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways is considering to utilize the surplus land and redevelop railway colonies and railways stations to generate revenue and add value to railway assets;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the financial need involved;
- (c) whether Railways is considering to involve private sector for the land development in Railways; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The vacant land, which is not required by Railways for its immediate operational needs, is utilized in the interim period for commercial development through Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), wherever feasible, in order to mobilize additional financial resources. Indian Railways has also initiated colony redevelopment programme wherein funds generated from commercial exploitation of unutilized FAR (Floor Area Ratio) shall be used to redevelop old colonies at no cost to Railways. RLDA has been entrusted with 85 land parcels covering an area of 254.33 Hectare for commercial development and 84 colonies in various Zonal Railways for redevelopment.

Further, Station redevelopment is planned by leveraging real estate potential of sparable land and air space in and around the Stations, inviting private participation. It is Railway's endeavour, generally develop Stations at no cost to Railways. For this, Railway conducts techno-economic feasibility studies of Stations across the country. Based on the outcome of these feasibility study Stations are taken up for redevelopment in phases.

Suburban railway corridors in Bengaluru

1557. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an MoU has been signed between the Railways and Government of Karnataka for suburban railway corridors in Bengaluru;

(b) the status of the first and second projects which has been accorded in-principle approval by the Railways;

(c) whether is it a fact that the Chief Minister of Karnataka has written letter to the Union Railway Minister for approving the projects; and

(d) if so, the expected time of approval of the projects and whether there will be any impact of COVID-19 on the above projects?

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

(b) There is only one project vis Bengaluru Suburban Transport Project. The project is under consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The issue is under consideration of Government. Execution of the project will be taken up after Government's approval. Impact of COVID-19 may not be ascertained at this point.

Government Railway Police (GRP) in Karnataka

1558. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government Railway Police (GRP) sanctioned strength and in-position in various States, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Karnataka has just 900 sanctioned strength for the last 40 years;

(c) whether is it also a fact that Karnataka has been requesting for increasing the strength in view of multiple increase in operations; and

(d) whether any proposal in this regard has been received in the Railways and if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the same so far?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) State-wise sanctioned strength and in-position of Government Railway Police (GRP) is given in Statement (*See below*).