

(b) and (c) Station redevelopment is planned by leveraging real estate potential of sparable land and air space in and around the stations, through private participation. The selection of developer is done following a transparent and competitive bidding process. Recently, Request for Qualification (RFQ) was invited for redevelopment of eight (8) railway stations viz. Nagpur, Gwalior, Amritsar, Sabarmati, Nellore, Puducherry, Dehradun & Tirupati on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Private developers have shown interest and accordingly, RFQ applications for all 8 stations have been received.

(d) Ministry of Railways has not signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with any foreign country in this regard.

Doubling of Penukonda-Dharmavaram railway line

1560. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the dates on which Railways and Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP) entered into MoU for doubling of Penukonda-Dharmavaram railway line;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government of A P is sharing 50 per cent of the cost;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project;
- (d) whether there is any cost and time overrun due to COVID-19; and
- (e) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh *vide* Government Order dated 22.01.2018 had agreed to share 50% cost of doubling of Dharmavaram - Penukonda Railway line. However, till date Government of Andhra Pradesh has not deposited any amount for this project.

(c) 41.5 Km long Penukonda - Dharmavaram doubling project has been sanctioned in 2018-19. Anticipated cost of project is ₹307.66 crore. An outlay of ₹20 crore has been provided for this project for financial year 2020-21. Land acquisition of 1.11 Ha has been taken up. Work has been taken up in 20 Km length of the project wherever land is available. As of now, an amount of ₹20 crore is outstanding towards share of Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Due to Covid-19, progress of work was affected but now it has picked up.

(e) 1.11 Ha land is still to be acquired by the State Government. The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition, forest clearance, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc. All these factors vary from site to site and affect the completion time of the project. Therefore, confirmed time line for completion of the project cannot be ascertained at this stage.

Rake points

1561. SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways would take steps to fulfill the long-standing demand of States for modernisation of existing rake points and starting new rake points; and

(b) whether Railways would take steps for relaxing the restrictions in booking of rakes for movement of fertilisers to enable timely availability to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Modernisation of existing rake points and starting of new rake points in the country is a need based ongoing process subject to commercial justification, operational requirement, technical feasibility and resource availability. 60 works of rake point improvement have been sanctioned at a cost of 1,975 Cr. Out of these 60 works, 31 works have been completed and others are in various stages of execution.

(b) There is no restriction in booking of rakes for movement of fertilisers. There is sufficient number of rakes available with Railways for movement of fertilisers to various loading points across India. Indian Railways has carried 24.26 Million Tonnes of fertilisers for the period from 1st April, 2020 to 15th September, 2020, as against 22.58 Million Tonnes for the period from 1st April, 2019 to 15th September, 2019 with an increase of 7.44%.

Shramik trains

1562. SHRI K.C.VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Shramik train services were operated by Railways during the lockdown period exclusively for the migrant workers and stranded citizens;