

(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;