

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1555
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2023

AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME IN WEST BENGAL

1555 SMT. MAUSAM NOOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has conducted a comprehensive assessment to ensure that the redevelopment of 37 railway stations in West Bengal under the 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme' aligns with the local culture, heritage, and architecture, as mentioned in the Prime Minister's Office statement;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has set specific timelines and milestones for the redevelopment of these 37 railway stations to monitor and ensure timely completion of the project; and
- (d) whether the Ministry has outlined specific measures to ensure that the upgraded amenities are accessible to passengers with diverse needs, including those with disabilities?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1555 BY SMT. MAUSAM NOOR ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 15.12.2023 REGARDING AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME IN WEST BENGAL

(a) to (d) The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme launched for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach.

It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better passenger information systems, Executive Lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping etc. keeping in view the necessity at each station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, amenities for Divyangjans, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballastless tracks, 'Roof Plazas' as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long term.

So far 1309 Railway Stations have been identified under this scheme including 98 numbers of stations in the State of West Bengal.

Development/redevelopment/upgradation of Railway Stations is complex in nature involving safety of passengers & trains and requires various statutory clearances such as fire clearance, heritage, tree cutting, air-port clearance etc. The progress also gets affected due to brown field related challenges such as shifting of utilities, (involving water/sewage lines, optical fibre cables, gas pipe lines, power/signal cables etc.,) infringements, operation of trains without hindering passenger movement, speed restrictions due to works carried out in close proximity of high voltage power lines etc. and these factors affect the completion time. Therefore, no time frame can be indicated at this stage.
