GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1350 TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2018

RAILWAY SAFETY FUND

1350.SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:

DR.PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has created a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore to give a major boost to safety-related works connected with tracks, rolling stock and proliferation of other safety technologies and training of staff and if so, the facts in this regard;
- (b) whether this corpus has started funding safety related works and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether all safety related measures have been compromised as over one lakh posts related to the railways' safety mechanism are vacant;
- (d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon;
- (e) the manner in which the Government will use the corpus fund in the absence of workforce; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for proper utilization of corpus funds and to speed up safety-related works?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1350 BY SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL, SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT, SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY, DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE, SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO, SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL, SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV, DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE AND SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 25.07.2018 REGARDING RAILWAY SAFETY FUND

- (a) and (b):Yes, Madam. As announced by Hon'ble Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech 2017-18, a Fund namely 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' has been introduced in 2017-18 for works relating to renewal, replacement, upgradation of critical safety assets under Capital segment of Budget. The Fund has a corpus of ₹ 1 lakh crore over a period of five years, with an annual outlay of ₹ 20,000 crore. The Fund is utilized to finance identified works under plan heads Track Renewals, Bridge Works, Signalling and Telecommunication Works, Road Safety Works of Level Crossings and Road Over/Under Bridges, Rolling Stock, Traffic Facilities, Electrical Works, Machinery and Plant, Workshops, Passenger Amenities and Training. The Fund has been introduced in 2017-18 and in the first year of its inception, an expenditure of ₹ 16091 crore has been incurred. An outlay of ₹ 20,000 crore has been allocated in Budget Estimates 2018-19 also.
- (c) and (d): No, Madam. All safety related measures are taken in full earnestness and all maintenance and other activities are carried out with the help of existing manpower, mechanized means and need based outsourcing.

(e) and (f): Guidelines for operating of 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) have been issued by Ministry of Finance. These guidelines include sources of financing RRSK, definition of safety works, summary of RRSK works identified, process of identifying/preparation of action plan on safety, approval framework and monitoring framework of RRSK safety plan.

Planning Directorate of Railway Board has been assigned the task of regularly monitoring physical and financial progress of works funded through 'RRSK'. In addition, an independent 'RRSK Monitoring Committee' has been created headed by CEO, NITI Aayog to regularly examine the RRSK performance. The RRSK progress/performance shall also be reviewed annually by the 'Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
