Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has granted/sanction to the Phaltan-Pandarpur railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the date when the sanction was granted and the time by which this work is likely to be completed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Pandarpur Railway Line is connecting the borders of other States; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to complete this railway line expeditiously?

(Shri Piyush Goyal)

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

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(a) to (e): Phaltan-Pandharpur (108.70 km) new line project was included in Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite Government approvals. As per Detailed Project Report (DPR), cost of this new line project has been assessed as ₹1,153 crore with Rate of Return (-) 3%.

Considering the huge shelf of ongoing new line projects and being financially unremunerative, it is very difficult for Railways to bear the entire cost of the project. Accordingly Government of Maharashtra has been requested to give consent for bearing 50% cost of the project and also to provide land free of cost so that project can be processed for sanction.

Phaltan-Padharpur proposed line falls entirely in Maharashtra.

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