GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 503 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2022

HIGH SPEED TRAIN PROJECTS

503. DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI: DR. HEENA GAVIT: DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV: DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways is working on a multi-pronged strategy of running high speed trains (300 kilometre per hour), semi-high speed trains and running of existing trains with increased speeds, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of blueprint regarding introduction of these high speed trains along with the phases and sectors in which these are likely to be introduced;

(c) whether any MoUs/agreements have been signed with foreign companies for the above projects and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present progress of trails of running Talgo trains and the time by which it would be operationalised in select sectors?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): At present, only one High Speed Rail Project with design speed of 320-350 Kmph between Mumbai and Ahmedabad is under implementation with technical and financial assistance from Government of Japan. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed with Government of Japan for providing a soft loan for 81% cost of Mumbai- Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project. Further, the survey and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the following Seven (7) High Speed Rail (HSR) Corridors have been undertaken:-

- (i) Delhi Varanasi
- (ii) Delhi-Ahmedabad
- (iii) Mumbai-Nagpur
- (iv) Mumbai-Hyderabad
- (v) Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru
- (vi) Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar
- (vii) Varanasi-Howrah

However, none of the above Corridor is sanctioned and the decision regarding these may depend on various factors such as outcome of DPR, techno-economic feasibility, availability of resources and financing options etc.

Two Semi-High Speed (SHS) 'Vande Bharat' trains (Chair Car) between New Delhi–Varanasi and New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra are already running in service over Indian Railways (IR). In addition, more than 100 'Vande Bharat' trains are planned to be manufactured at Integrated Coach Factory (ICF). Further, more rakes of energy efficient 'Vande Bharat' rakes of modern technologies are planned by IR along with selected technology partners.

The Government has also decided for raising of sectional speed to 160 kmph on the existing New Delhi-Mumbai (including Vadodara-Ahmedabad) and New Delhi-Howrah (including Kanpur-Lucknow) routes and the works for the same are in progress.

(d): The trials of Talgo coaches was carried out in 2016. However, no timeline for introduction of these coaches on IR has been decided.
