

RLY PROJECTS WORTH ₹4 CR TO COME UP IN PM'S VARANASI

Srinand Jha

■ srinandjha@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A slew of projects are coming up in Varanasi, Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, with a number of construction activities going on all around.

The Gorakhpur-based North-eastern Railway zone is implementing 53 projects worth ₹3,940.02 crore in Varanasi and the adjoining district of Ghazipur – represented by the minister of state for railways Manoj Sinha.

A coach washing pit is coming up at one place, while a diesel electrical multiple unit shed is being constructed somewhere else.

“Long pending capacity enhancement schemes are now at the take-off stage,” said VK Srivastava, the Varanasi-based Diesel Locomotive Works' controller of stores. The first lot of five “dual-mode locomotives” is scheduled for roll-out by March next year, while the REMMLOT will also be shortly unveiled, said Yogesh Mohan, chief quality assurance manager.

The 4,500 horsepower dual-mode locos will operate under pure electric traction where possible, and use the diesel engines to extend the journeys along non-electrified sections. “Such locos will reduce operational challenges and transit time for passenger and goods trains that link the main rail lines with the branch lines in the remote areas,” said AK Singh, the unit's chief design engineer. Such locos have been in operation in countries, including France, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain and Switzerland.

The Remote Monitoring and Management of Locomotive and Trains (REMMLOT) is network oriented system, connecting locos in the field with centralised server based management system through GSM network communication and GPS.

The REMMLOT, which will be fitted in 12 locos on a trial basis by July, incorporates the Loco Cab Video and Voice Recording System, which will enable a close vigil on loco pilots during train operations.

“The systems will be used for effective post analysis after accidents,” officials said.