

Introduction of Shatabdi express for north-east region

1658. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has any proposal for introducing Shatabdi Express in North Eastern Region;

(b) whether his Ministry would propose a Shatabdi Express between New Cooch Bihar district in West Bengal and Nagaon district in Assam considering the historical importance and tourism Development at Borodwa, Satra, Barpeta Satra, Madhupur Satra, etc., where thousands of pilgrims visit these places every year; and

(c) whether Railways has proposed to consider the long pending demand of the public and take necessary steps to modernize the Bijni Railway station with all the standard facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):

(a) to (c) No, Sir.

Development of Surat-Hazira railway line

1659. SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:

SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project for development of Surat-Hazira railway line is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the status regarding financial contribution among different stakeholders/ companies for this project; and

(c) whether Government contemplate to allocate more funds to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Financial Model of this project has not yet been finalized.

(c) Funds are being allocated to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) continuously. In the Budget for the year 2008-09, it has been proposed to allot Rs. 1535 crore to RVNL under different Plan Heads.

Pending water supply projects

1660. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:

SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several proposals for permissions of railway crossings for various water supply projects are pending with Railway authorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):
(a) and (b) As on 31.12.2007, a total of 438 proposals for permission of crossings for various water supply projects are under process with Railways. Out of this, 262 proposals are held up for want of completion of procedural requirements by the parties.

Construction of Patan-Bhiladi missing link

1661. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal received from the Government of Gujarat for construction of Patan-Bhiladi missing link;

(b) whether it is a fact that construction of missing link between Patan-Bhiladi, a dedicated freight corridor between Pipavav, Surendranagar, Viramgam, Mahesana, Patan, Bhiladi up to Bhatinda is feasible; and

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):
(a) The new BG line from Patan-Bhiladi is already sanctioned as a part of Viramgam-Bhiladi gauge conversion project. Preliminary activities like preparation of plan, estimates, etc. are in progress.

(b) The portion of Patan-Bhiladi does not come under the identified alignment of the Western route of Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC). However, Mehsana-Viramgam-Surendranagar-Pipavav (395 kms) is an identified feeder route for the Western Freight Corridor which is getting upgraded to DFC standards.

(c) Does not arise.

Rail connectivity to minor ports

1662. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide rail connectivity to minor ports;

(b) if so, the ports which are under consideration particularly ports of Gujarat State;

(c) whether the Porbandar and Bedi ports are being considered;

(d) if so, whether Government had convened a meeting of Gujarat Government/GMB to consider it; and

(e) by when the approvals of the Railway Board would be given to the above projects alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):

(a) Yes, Sir.