

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.