

Railway Projects in Maharashtra

†515. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the demands of the public at large of Maharashtra, in particular of Latur, for various rail projects;

(b) how many of them have been approved/sanctioned/implemented and completed so far;

(c) what are the reasons for non-approved/non-sanctioned and non-implemented rail projects, giving the project wise details; and

(d) which railway projects are pending and the new ones likely to be included in the ensuing (next) Railway Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Proposals for rail projects are not formulated state-wise. Sanction and Allocation of funds to Railway Projects is a need based exercise where the relative priority of the project depending upon its physical progress, operational importance, national and strategic significance and social desirability, is the guiding factor. A number of Railway projects span across more than one State. Therefore, State/Regional boundaries are not a criterion for deciding Railway investments and for the same reason state-wise details of Railway Projects are not maintained. However, with specific reference to Latur, the following are the demands of the public of the region:—

1. Earlier commissioning of Latur—Latur road new broad gauge line.
2. Gauge-conversion of Latur-Kurduwadi-Miraj section.

Both the works have been approved and sanctioned and are being executed in a phased manner.

Survey of Agartala-Sabroom Sector by Railways

516. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Minister of Railways had announced in the Railway Budget 1998-99 for taking up the survey work of Agartala-Sabroom Sector;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard; and

(c) by when the survey work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) and (c) The survey is in progress and the report is expected by 31.3.2000. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report is received.

Gauge Conversions in Karnataka

517. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many gauge conversion works are in progress in Karnataka;
- (b) what is the physical progress of each of those projects;
- (c) why some of the projects, which were taken up more than five years back, have not been completed; and
- (d) by when these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Four gauge conversion projects are in progress in Karnataka. The details regarding their progress and reasons for delay, if any, are as under:—

(i) Arsikere-Hassan-Mangalore (236 kms)

The section between Arsikere-Hassan (46.50 km) was commissioned on 23.8.1996 and Hassan-Sakleshpur (42.00 kms) on 26.1.1998. The works on remaining section between Sakleshpur to Mangalore (147.50 kms) are progressing well and achieved overall progress of 35%. The delay in completion of the project is due to executing works in difficult terrain of 56 kms in Ghat section of Sakleshpur to Subramanya Road and constraints of resources.

(ii) Yeswanthpur-Baiyyappanahalli-Salem (197 kms) (60 kms in Karnataka)

The work on the section between Salem to Baiyyappanahalli (177 kms) was completed and commissioned on 12.1.97. The works on the remaining portion i.e. Baiyyappanahalli to Yeswanthpur (20 kms) are also completed but could not be commissioned due to public agitation for providing a Road-over bridge at Lingarajapuram level crossing between Baiyyappanahalli and Hebbal in the section. Since the work has already been completed, there is no delay.

(iii) Birur-Shimoga Town-Talguppa (161 kms)

(Material Modification of Bangalore-Hubli Gauge conversion Project)

Gauge conversion of Bangalore-Hubli (469 kms) was completed and commissioned on 29.5.95 and the branch line between Birur-Shimoga town (63 kms) sanctioned as first material modification to Bangalore-Hubli project was commissioned for passenger