

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various options are being explored, before any conclusion is reached.

Labourers working under contractors in railways

911. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers working under contractors in different sectors of Railways;

(b) whether these contractors have labour licences; and

(c) whether these labourers get minimum wages and covered under social security schemes of Ministry of Labour, viz. P.F., Gratuity, E.S.I, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Tender Conditions and General Conditions of contract stipulate that a contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 / Rules 1971 as amended from time to time. The contract labour are paid the minimum wages as per notifications issued by the Central / State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and are also covered under social security schemes of Ministry of Labour as per extant Acts.

Construction of new rail lines in Gujarat

912. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal in February, 2008 for construction of 10 new railway lines spread over various sectors of the State and also providing required funds for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As per available records, no such proposal has been received from State Government of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari rail line

913. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

SHRI NATUJIHALAJI THAKOR:

SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. has completed the gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the gauge conversion would be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The work has been planned for completion during 2008-09. Gauge conversion of the entire stretch from Samdlari-Bhidi is, however, likely to be completed by September, 2009. The preliminary work to start mega block is in progress and expected to be completed by middle of November, 2008. Mega block may start from November/ December, 2008.

- (c) The project is expected to be completed by September, 2009.

Modernisation of Mumbai local trains

†914. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite huge revenues from Mumbai local trains adequate facilities are not provided to the passengers;
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to run trains equipped with modern coaches like Delhi Metro and to modernize all the Mumbai local train stations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) New technology AC/DC EMU coaches with better interiors/exterior and forced ventilation system are being introduced in Mumbai suburban in phased manner to provide better comforts to the passengers.

(b) and (c) As such, there is no plan to introduce EMUs on pattern of Delhi Metro in Mumbai suburban. However, introduction of air condition class in EMUs for which feasibility study is currently under way in Western Railway.

- (d) Does not arise.

Extension of rail route upto Shirdi

†915. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is expanding rail route upto Shirdi in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details of the work carried out so far; and
- (c) until when this rail route would be completed and the railway traffic become operational thereon?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.