

Upgradation of Darjeeling Himalayan Rail

†383. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any new scheme to further upgrade the Darjeeling Himalayan Rail;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are formulating a scheme for the modernization of Tindharia Railway factory and Kurseong Railway press;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There are plans to upgrade the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR).

(b) Following areas are included in the upgradation scheme—

(i) Improvement of Station building and provision of desirable passenger amenities.

(ii) Upgradation of Tindharia workshop.

(iii) Induction of new coaches.

(iv) Upgradation of track.

(v) Induction of oil-fired steam locos.

(c) Plan for upgradation of Tindharia workshop is in progress. However, the heritage character of its assets will be preserved during upgradation.

There is no plan to modernize the Kurseong Railway press.

(d) and (e) The plan for upgradation of Tindharia workshop includes upgradation of roof/floor/building, induction of new machines and rehabilitation of existing machinery and plant.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi