

(c) whether any funds were earmarked for this project during the current year; and

(d) the time-frame set for execution of this project indicating the progress made in this regard, till-date?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of railway stations before Commonwealth Games-2010

267. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to modernize/upgrade Amritsar and Chandigarh stations before the Commonwealth Games in October, 2010;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government is also planning to introduce heritage trains for tourists to Amritsar during the Games;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the plans of Government to provide good connectivity to the nearest tourist/pilgrimage centres from Delhi during the Commonwealth Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) Amritsar Railway station is an "A-1" category station and Chandigarh is an "A" category station and minimum essential passenger amenities have already been provided at both the stations as per norms.

Further, Amritsar station has been modernized/upgraded under Model station scheme as well as Modern station scheme, Chandigarh station has been modernized/upgraded under Modern station scheme and planned for completion by March 2010 under Model station scheme. Following modernization/upgradation works have been completed at these stations :

Chandigarh -

(i) Improvement to entry and exist to ensure smooth flow of traffic;

(ii) Development of green patch circulating area;

(iii) Improvement to facade of station building;

(iv) Modernization of concourse;

(v) Modernization of Booking & Enquiry Office;