

[16 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the detailed project report has since been prepared and survey has taken place;

(d) how much allocation is being proposed to be made for the doubling of track;

(e) whether any cut-of-date has been fixed for completion of the work; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) to (f) An updating survey for doubling of Meerut-Tapsi (Saharanpur) section was completed during 2004-05. As per survey report, the cost of doubling of 113.62 kms. long line has been assessed at Rs. 238.38 crore with a rate of return as (-) 7.83%. Due to constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the project it was not considered feasible to take up this work. However, Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) via Khurja-Meerut-Saharanpur-Ludhiana will provide additional capacity on this route.

Train services to Pakistan

†2087. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian railways is running train services to various places of Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether any accident took place during train journeys due to lack of security; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to check such accidents and the steps being proposed by Government to ensure that such accidents do not recur in future?

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

(b) Two coaches of Train No. 4001 Delhi-Attari Special caught fire on 18.02.2007 at 23.50 hrs. between Diwana-Panipat railway station. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

train was provided with the escort of 6 Railway Protection Force staff of which 3 RPF lost their life besides other passengers.

(c) The following steps are being taken to further enhance the security:

- * The train has been made fully reserved w.e.f. 22.02.2007. Reservation of accommodation has been brought on computer network.
- * Security checks like ckecking through sniffer dogs, metal detectors, anti sabotage checks of coaches etc. have been intensified.
- * Passengers are being permitted to travel with valid documents only.
- * Sleeper class coaches with cushioned berths have replaced general class coaches.

Track renewal programme

2088. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI KAMALAKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the status in respect of track renewal programme;
- (b) whether it is a fact that almost all the railway tracks need to be renewed; and
- (c) what is the outlay involve in the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Every year planning is made to include track renewal works which becomes due for renewal in that year. For the year 2007-08 works costing Rs. 4663.5 crore have been identified and included in works programme 2007-08.

(b) No, Sir. Track renewal are carried out on age-cum condition basis criteria laid down in Indian Railways Permanent Way Manual and as per traffic needs. Nearly 3000 km. tracks become due for renewal on annual basis as per present level of traffic.

(c) Outlay involved in track renewal works included in works programme 2007-08 is Rs. 4663.5 crore (Gross).