(a) the average per hour speed of express trains between Shikohabad and Farrukhabad before renewal of the track;

(b) the present average per hour speed of express trains on that track after the renewal;

(c) to what extent renewal has improved the quality and condition of the track and speed of trains; and

(d) the steps being taken to take full advantage of the new track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The average speed of express train as on date is 30.6 kmph, which is the same as before track renewal, as other requisite works are at various stages of planning and execution.

(c) and (d) Though the safety of track has improved due to track renewal, other requisite works *i.e.*, deep screening, ballasting, repair of cess and welding of rails are in different stages of planning and execution to take full advantage of the upgraded track.

Special Railway Safety Fund

1023. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has been able to accumulate Rs. 17,000 crores proposed under the Special Railway Safety Fund;

(b) if so, the amount it collected from passengers through safety surcharge, budgetary support, etc.;

(c) whether it is a fact that no safety work has been undertaken from the Special Railway Safety Fund; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Rs. 16,915 crores has been appropriated to Special Railway Safety Fund from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2008. The amount collected from passengers through Safety Surcharge, Budgetary Support and Railway Revenue is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Surcharge Collected from Passengers	Allocation from Railway Revenue	Budgetary Support
3,784	1,177	11,954

(c) No, Sir. Special Railway Safety Fund was created for the replacement of over-aged assets and safety works. The funds were utilized for safety works such as Track Renewal, Bridge rehabilitation, replacement of Signaling and Telecom gears etc.

(d) Does not arise.