

(d) New trains services are introduced subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification.

(e) Requests received from various quarters are examined and action taken thereupon keeping in view competing demands, infrastructural availability, operational feasibility and other constraints.

New railway line in backward and remote areas

1805. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that backward and remote regions of the country are given priority while constructing new railway lines with the intention of providing infrastructure to develop them; and

(b) if so, what parameters would be adopted for balanced and equitable development of railway lines and railway services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) There are 109 new line projects in progress in various States. Most of the new line projects have been taken up primarily on socio-economic considerations for the speedy development of economically backward areas. The works are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Train services are introduced on the basis of demand pattern and traffic justification subject to operational feasibility and availability of resources.

Health care smart card scheme

†1806. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Health Care Smart Card Scheme started by Railways last year has failed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to further extend the scheme that was started as a pilot project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The pilot project started by Northern Railway has been extended upto 21.08.2010 and it covers Railway beneficiaries residing at Gurgaon and Ghaziabad also.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.