

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There are 1,166 SC and 615 ST employees in Group-A as on 31-3-2007.

(b) 10395 posts of SCs and 12491 posts of STs were identified as lying vacant as on 1-11-2008 including Gr. 'A'.

(c) and (d) Special Recruitment Drive (SRD) has already been launched *w.e.f.* 1.11.2008 to clear the backlog vacancies.

(e) Does not arise.

Construction of schools on railway land

†3983. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is now contemplating a new scheme for opening of schools and colleges on the Railway land after it was announced that it will be used for the construction of hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms set by Government for selecting land for the purpose of opening of schools;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) whether participation of private sector has also been ensured in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) Ministry of Railways have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) both with Ministry of Human Resource Development as well as Ministry of Health to develop educational facilities and construction of Hospitals by utilizing Railway land not required for immediate operational use. Separate strips of land are being identified for schools and for hospitals. Further details of implementing the MOU, norms for selecting land for the schools/colleges/hospitals and extent of private participation, if any, shall be worked out by a High Powered Working Group consisting of senior officers from Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Human Resource Development/Ministry of Health which has since been constituted.

Conversion of narrow gauge lines into broad gauge

†3984. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the kilometres length of narrow gauge and metre gauge rail lines in 1950 and 2010, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any such plan or target under which all narrow gauge and metre gauge lines would be converted into broad gauge and the achievement thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if not, whether Government would consider to convert all narrow gauge and metre gauge lines into broad gauge in a fixed time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The length of railway lines (route kilometres) of Indian Railways is maintained as on 31st March of each year. The total length of narrow gauge and metre gauge railway lines as on 31.3.1951 (end of financial year 1950-51) was 4,153 and 24,185 kilometres respectively. However, State-wise information of length of railway lines as on 31.03.1951 is not available as route lengths were not recorded State-wise at that time. The State-wise length of narrow gauge and metre gauge railway lines of Indian Railways as on 31.3.2009 (latest available) is given below.

Name of the State	Narrow Gauge	Metre Gauge
Andhra Pradesh	—	184.66
Arunachal Pradesh	—	1.26
Assam	—	1057.12
Bihar	—	691.10
Chhattisgarh	88.46	—
Gujarat	771.41	1364.27
Haryana	3.41	24.85
Himachal Pradesh	245.78	—
Karnataka	—	97.00
Kerala	—	116.89
Madhya Pradesh	708.08	348.76
Maharashtra	596.29	105.75
Manipur	—	1.35
Mizoram	—	1.50
Nagaland	—	1.72
Punjab	11.66	—
Rajasthan	86.76	1724.19
Tamil Nadu	—	1152.44
Tripura	—	151.40
Uttar Pradesh	2.03	1281.44
Uttaranchal	—	61.15
West Bengal	220.01	106.14
TOTAL	2733.89	8472.99

(b) and (c) During 2009-10, about 1550 kilometres Gauge Conversion has been completed. Out of remaining about 9,500 kilometres of Metre/Narrow Gauge Lines, Gauge Conversion work already taken up for 5,500 kilometres. Further Gauge Conversion of about 450 kilometres of Narrow Gauge Lines has been proposed in the Railway Budget 2010-11.

Indian Railway Vision 2020 entails conversion of all Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines to Broad Gauge except heritage lines. This would, however, depend upon availability of resources.

Train accidents

3985. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of train accidents occurred in the country, State/zone-wise during January to March this year resulting in loss of lives and injuries to passengers, railway employees and others;

(b) the details of each case with the *ex-gratia* payment made by Railways to the next of kin of the deceased and to those injured;

(c) whether statutory enquiry in each case has been completed; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During January to March, 2010, 08 consequential train accidents, *i.e.*, Derailments, Collisions, Manned Level Crossing accidents and Miscellaneous accidents involving loss of life or injury took place on Indian Railways. Date-wise and zone-wise details of these accidents and *ex-gratia* announced is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) Statutory inquiry by the Commission of Railway Safety has been conducted in 05 accidents out of the above 08 consequential train accidents. Inquiry has already been completed by the Commission of Railway Safety in one accident of rear-end collision of 2556 Gorakhdham Express with 2418 Prayagraj Express on 02.01.2010 between Bhaupur and Panki stations on Tundla-Kanpur Section of Allahabad Division of North Central Railway. In its final report, the Commission of Railway Safety has concluded that this accident had happened due to exceeding the permissible speed during foggy weather by the crew of 2556 Gorakhdham Express. Recommendations and findings of the Commission of Railway Safety have been examined by the concerned departments and instructions for train operations during fog, use of Walkie-Talkie sets by Guards, monitoring of the working of loco pilots by frequent surprise checks, have been issued and disciplinary action has been initiated against the defaulting official.