

Connectivity to pilgrimage centers in Gujarat

3970. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations from various section of people including Government of Gujarat for providing train connections to places of pilgrimage namely, Dakor, Ambaji, Junagadh, etc.; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof and by when these places are likely to be connected with trains to facilitate pilgrimage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Representations have been received for introduction of trains serving pilgrimage centers of Gujarat.

At present, Dakor station is served by 4 pairs of passenger trains *viz.* 265/266 and 115/116 Anand-Godhra Passenger, MEMU 723/724 and MEMU 725/726. Poonam special trains are also run for Dakor from Vadodara and Ahmedabad every month. Pilgrims desiring to visit Ambaji can avail of trains going towards and having stoppage at Abu Road. Junagarh is being served by nine pairs of Mail/Express/Passenger trains on Broad Gauge and two pairs of metre gauge trains. Extra coaches are being attached to trains as and when there is a demand from divisions during Fairs/Melas to ease traffic.

Shortage of funds for modernization

3971. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways is short of funds for modernization and expansion of its services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways has any plan to overcome this paucity of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 1.4.2010 the sanctioned and ongoing projects of new lines, doubling, gauge conversion and electrification have a total remaining balance expenditure of Rs. 1,00,000 crores approximately. The average annual expenditure on these projects in the first three years of the Eleventh Plan is estimated as Rs. 6,400 crores approximately.

(c) and (d) Financing of Railway Projects through alternative means like Public-Private partnership, cost-sharing by State Governments, Multilateral Funding etc. are being explored.

Memu train between Lucknow-Hardoi

†3972. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether electrification work between Lucknow and Shahjahanpur under Lucknow and Muradabad division has been completed and it has been announced many times that a Memu train would be started between Lucknow-Hardoi;

(b) whether a Memu train between Lucknow-Hardoi could not be started till date even after declaration of its dates;

(c) if so, by when this train would be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Making of Buxar a model railway station

3973. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had made an announcement that Buxar railway station in Bihar would be made a model station;

(b) whether it is also a fact that massive construction and renovation work started nearly two years ago;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the contractor who was entrusted with the work, is not pursuing it vigorously and passengers are facing tremendous hardship as a result of this; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and measures being taken to expedite the construction work and complete it within time?

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

(b) to (d) Various improvement works have been taken up at Buxar railway station. Works of improvement on station building, VIP lounge, renovation of booking and passenger reservation system (PRS) have already been completed. Remaining works, like extension of platform for accommodating 24 coach trains, improvements on platform surface and circulating area have been planned for completion by December, 2010. Efforts have been made to expedite the works and close monitoring of works is being done.

Super fast train from Puri to Kurla

†3974. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a super fast train originating from Puri in Orissa to Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (Kurla) in Mumbai, has been flagged off;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.