

(b) Survey for gauge conversion of Mayiladuturai-Thiruvavur-Tiruturaipundi-Karaikudi and Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampali metre gauge line has already been completed as per which cost of conversion of these lines has been worked out as Rs. 404.19 crore. Further decision on the proposal would be taken once the results of the survey are finalised.

Doubling of railway line

3165. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling of railway line between Pullampeta and Rayalacheruvu and Chennai and Mumbai route;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) if not, whether there is any likelihood of taking it up in the near future?

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

(b) Mumbai-Chennai is one of the Golden Quadrilateral routes and is proposed to be doubled. On this route, doubling already exists on certain sections. The doubling of following sections have already been taken up:—

(i) Mahol-Pakni-Solapur

(ii) Raichur-Guntakal balance section.

(iii) Gooty-Renigunta balance section.

Further, the doubling of remaining length on Bhigwan-Gulbarga is not yet sanctioned. All these works have been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. (RVNL) for implementation.

(c) Does not arise.

Improving the Disaster Management

3166. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is contemplating to improve the disaster management in view of the recent serial bomb blasts in trains in Mumbai; and

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(b) if so, what are the steps to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-Bhutan Rail link

3167. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Royal Bhutan Government has expressed willingness to establish rail link between India and Bhutan for the purpose of trade and commerce;

(b) if so, what are Government's views and considerations in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on 25th January, 2005 between the Royal Government of Bhutan and Government of India Under which Government of India shall carry out the feasibility studies for establishing broad gauge rail links between bordering towns of India and Bhutan at five locations. Surveys for the new lines have been taken up.

(c) Does not arise.

Basic facilities at dungri Railway Station

3168. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no basic facilities at Dungri railway station in Western Railway;

(b) if so, which basic facilities the Dungri railway station is lacking for; and

(c) whether Government would consider for providing basic facilities at Dungri railway station on priority to avoid accidents?