

[25 August, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

persons should be allowed at the platforms as is being done in the case of airports. Efforts are being made to have a consensus view on this subject. Therefore, no formal decision on this recommendation has yet been taken.

(d) Does not arise.

Eastern freight corridor

3159. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct eastern freight corridor linking east coast ports to handle containerized traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame within which the corridor linking Paradip and other ports in the Orissa State would be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Eastern Corridor of Dedicated Freight Corridor Project is proposed to be constructed from Ludhiana to Sonnagar. Later it will be extended to the proposed Deep Sea Port in Kolkata area in view of increased freight traffic.

(c) Paradip and other ports in Orissa will be connected with the Eastern Freight Corridor.

Pending rail line in Andhra Pradesh

3160. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending railway lines in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the reasons for pendency; and

(c) the expected time to complete the lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Pending projects are considered as those projects which have been included in the Budget subject to the proviso that work would be taken up after requisite clearances have been obtained.

There is one project in Andhra Pradesh, namely Kakinada-Pithapuram New Broad Gauge rail line where requisite clearances have not been received for which necessary action has been initiated. However, there are a number of ongoing projects under implementation in the State which are being proposed as per availability of resources. A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects in a time frame of about five years.

Additional Financial Assistance to Andhra Pradesh for rail line

3161. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways had sanctioned a railway line from Peddapally-Karimnagar-Nizamabad in 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the implementation schedule of the project;

(d) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought additional financial assistance for this project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad new line (177 km.) was included in the Budget 1993-94. Peddapalli Karimnagar (35.53 km) has been completed and commissioned. Karimnagar-Jagityal (48 km.) is targeted for completion during 2006-07.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Andhra Pradesh Government had requested for the provision of Rs. 50 crore during 2006-07 for this project.

Doubling of Surat Bhusawal rail line

3162. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Surat-Bhusawal section of the Western Railway has been included in planning for providing double lines;

(b) if so, what are the details of the planning; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed?