

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) The work of the said Road Over Bridge (ROB) comes under National Highway Development Programme and is already sanctioned. NHAI (National Highway Authority of India) is constructing the complete ROB. The work is at planning stage. The Railways will only be doing the supervision work for the Railway portion.

Facility to senior citizens and pregnant women

†1470. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railway administration can allow senior citizens and pregnant women to use the coach meant for handicapped persons all time in a day in local trains of Mumbai;

(b) if so, whether Railways would issue notification concerning central, western and harbour local trains at the earliest; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Handicapped compartments are reserved only for persons with disability i.e. physically handicapped persons, total blind persons, total deaf and dumb persons, mentally retarded persons and cancer patients, etc. If senior citizens and pregnant women are permitted to travel in handicapped compartments, it will cause inconvenience to the handicapped and will be resented by them. Moreover, separate accommodation is already being earmarked for ladies in suburban trains. Accommodation is also being earmarked for senior citizens in suburban trains during non-peak hours.

Laying of new railway lines

†1471. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the length of new railway lines in kilometers to be laid during the year 2010-11;
- (b) whether Government proposes to convert Udaipur-Ahmedabad line into broad gauge line; and
- (c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) 1021 kilometers of new line has been targeted for completion during 2010-11.

(b) and (c) The gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatangar-Udaipur (299.20 km) has already been included in the Budget 2008-09. Target for completion has not been fixed. ' Work will progress as per availability of resources.

Conversion of narrow gauge line into broad gauge

1472. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many narrow gauge railway lines in Gujarat have not been converted into broad gauge; and
- (b) if so, whether these narrow gauge lines would be converted into broad gauge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) As on 1.4.2010, Gujarat has 784 Km. of narrow gauge lines out of which gauge conversion has been taken up for 161 Km. The conversion of metre gauge/narrow gauge line into broad gauge is being done in a progressive manner. Vision 2020 entails conversion of all metre gauge/narrow gauge lines except some of the heritage lines.

Train service between Kapurthala and Delhi

1473. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government knows that Rail Coach Factory is situated in district Kapurthala, Punjab;