

Rail projects in Gujarat

2216. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the response of the Ministry on the demands from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and various Passenger Associations viz. the broad-gauge trains in between Patan (NG)-Ahmedabad, revival of 26 closed railway services due to gauge-conversion, extension of Haridwar-Ahmedabad train upto Veraval-Somnath, extension of Rajkot-Sikandrabad train upto Veraval-Somnath, conversion of Taranga-Mehsana and connecting Ambaji with Mehsana-Palanpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): At present, one pair of Passenger train between Ahmedabad-Mahesana-Patan and 4 pairs of Passenger trains between Mahesana-Patan are available on Broad Gauge route.

Broad Gauge trains have been introduced over sections, which have got opened for passenger traffic after guage conversion.

Extension of 9105/9106 Ahmedabad-Haridwar Mail and 7017/7018 Secunderabad-Raikot Express upto Veraval/Somnath is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

A survey for gauge conversion of Mahesana-Taranga Hill with extension to Ambaji has been completed recently.

No survey has been sanctioned for connecting Ambaji with Mahesana-Palanpur.

Railway line between Lucknow and Moradabad

†2217. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification work on railway line between Lucknow and Moradabad has been completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that electric trains are not running on that line because it has not been tested; and

(c) if so, by when electric trains would start running on this line?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) Yes, Sir. Electrification work is in progress on Lucknow-Moradabad section.

(c) Trains hauled by electric traction will be planned on Lucknow-Moradabad section in 2011-12 after its electrification is completed.

Janta meals

2218. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways proposes to start good quality Janta Meals at affordable rates in the trains and platforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the food provided in the trains presently is not of standard quality; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken/to be taken by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Sale of Janata Meals priced at Rs. 10/- is accorded priority on Indian Railways, to meet the catering requirement of common passengers. On an average of 1.4 lakh Janta Meals are sold everyday on Indian Railways through refreshment rooms, food plazas and other catering stalls.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. It is the endeavour of the Indian Railways to provide good quality food to passengers on trains and in railway premises. To ensure the quality of food, monitoring of catering services is carried out intensively and appropriate action including termination of contract is taken against errant licensees. To effect significant improvement in Railway catering, a new Catering Policy 2010 has been issued which seeks to address interalia improving the quality of meals.

Rescue and relief operations

2219. DR. MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the preparedness of Railways to quickly access the sites with rescue and relief operations in co-ordination with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) within the initial hours of the accidents;