

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. 100% concession in Sleeper and 3-AC classes has been granted to cancer patients.

(b) The above concession is admissible with effect from 20.4.2010. This information has been disseminated through the media and also uploaded on the Railways website.

(c) Concessional tickets are issued directly at the stations on production of the prescribed certificate from the concerned hospital. Concession in rail travel is admissible to Cancer patients when they are going alone or with escort to a recognized hospital on being called for treatment/check up and return thereafter.

Construction of New Paadchari Bridge at Virar

†3006. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Paadchari bridge at Virar in Mumbai is in state of collapsing as it has become very old and it may cause a big accident; and

(b) if so, whether Government is going to construct a new Paadchari bridge after closing this old bridge?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Vacancies in Railways

3007. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is a large number of vacancies in Railways, including more than 26,000 of drivers and 20,000 related to railway safety, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether Railways has enhanced infrastructure, including running staff and safety personnel, proportionate to increased number of trains and services in last few years, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any steps are being taken or contemplated to provide minimum infrastructure, including adequate technical staff, commensurate with number of trains and services maintained by Railways, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The details of vacancies as on 01.04.2009 is as under:

(i)	Loco Pilots	7190
(ii)	Other safety categories	81834

(b) and (c) Up-gradation of infrastructure and addition to facilities is a continuous process. Works are sanctioned every year keeping in view increase/up-gradation of operation and maintenance facilities including additional holding of locos. While periodic crew review is undertaken based on additional traffic requirement, other essential and safety category posts are created depending on the need.

Survey of new railway lines in North-eastern region

3008. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of proposed survey of new railway lines in North-Eastern States in details; and
- (b) the present status of survey, along with progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Details of ongoing surveys for new rail lines in the North Eastern Region along with status is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Kms	Progress
1	2	3	4
1.	Barpeta Road-Tihu	58	50%
2.	Chaparmukh-Dibrugarh	350	10%
3.	Dangri-Dhola	6	5%
4.	Jogighopa to Guwahati via Barpeta-Sarthebari	120	10%