

Extension of Kalka-Shimla rail line

†665. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that even after 62 years of Independence of the country, Kalka-Shimla railway line in Himachal Pradesh has not been increased by an inch or so;
- (b) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for increasing this rail line upto Rohru/Chidgaon;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, whether Ministry has any proposal to make a survey for increasing the rail line from Delhi to Rohru/Chidgaon *via* Dehradun-Tooni or Sirmore so that the farmers can bring apple-potato worth crores of rupee directly to the Mandi in Delhi?

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

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) No, Sir.

Train accidents

†666. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of train accidents occurred till date since January, 2010 along with the reasons of each accidents;
- (b) the number of such incidents in which train driver's alertness averted the accident till date since January, 2010;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to encourage such drivers; and
- (d) the financial assistance given by Government to dependents of the persons killed and injured in these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) During January to 23rd July, 2010, 56 consequential train accidents *viz.* Collisions, Derailments, Fire, Manned Level Crossing accidents and Miscellaneous accidents took place on Indian Railways. Out of these, 36 accidents have been attributed to Failure of Railway Staff, 06 due to Failure of other than Railway Staff, 09 due to Sabotage and 05 accidents are under investigation.

- (b) Alertness of Drivers is always essential for safe running of trains and all possible efforts are made to ensure their alertness.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.