

(vii) Provision of emergency light with separate battery back up in all new main line coaches.

(viii) Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC)

(ix) Manning of all unmanned level crossing gates.

(c) Inducting new technologies for safe and reliable train operations is a continuous process. The proliferation of these systems on the entire railway network shall be considered on successful completion of the trials in phases as early as possible.

Gauge conversion of Udaipur-Ahmedabad line

†1196. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 2008, Government had approved gauge conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge on Udaipur to Ahmedabad line;

(b) if so, whether the work of conversion of this line has started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the work will start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur (299.20 km) has been included in the Budget 2008-09.

(b) Yes, Sir. Preliminary activities like approval of plans, invitation of tenders, etc. are in progress.

(c) Does not arise.

Poor quality food in trains

1197. SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that passengers are being exploited in trains by private vendors by selling of food items in collusion with railway police and railway officials;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.