

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has sharply lowered its investment projection for Railways by over 23 per cent to Rs. 2,00,802 crore in the Eleventh Five Year Plan as against the earlier projection of Rs. 2,61,808 crore due to its poor investment track record; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Train accident - free modern technology

1195. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to adopt new technology to make train travel accident-free;

(b) if so, the details thereof by indicating which new and modern technologies are available for the railway safety; and

(c) whether Government has fixed any time-frame for the implementation of train accident-free modern technology throughout the country?

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

(b) The important modern technologies and measures available for railway safety are given below:

- (i) Train Protection Warning System (TPWS)
- (ii) Anti Collision Device (ACD)
- (iii) Vigilance Control Device (VCD)
- (iv) Wheel Impact Load Detectors (WILD)
- (v) Provision of twinbeam headlights and flasher lights in locomotives.
- (vi) Use of Fire retardant, electric cable in locos & passenger coaches.

(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.