

for the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) has been completed. Initial construction contract for 54 major and important bridges on Western DFC has been awarded. Negotiation for external funding are in progress and funding for Phase-I (Rewari-Vadodara) of Western DFC is tied up with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The project is targeted to be completed in 2016-17.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

#### **Beautification and development of stations in North-Western Railway**

†2008. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether beautification and development work has been carried out at any railway station of North-Western Railway during last year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and details of the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Upgradation/Improvement of Passenger Amenities which includes beautification work at Railway stations is a continuous process. The work of beautification and development of railway stations have been carried out at 47 stations on North-Western Railway during the last year. The expenditure on such works is funded from Plan Head "Passenger Amenities". The amount spent by North-Western Railway under Plan Head "Passenger Amenities" was Rs. 20.6 crores in the year 2009-10.

#### **Allowing hawkers to carry on business in trains and stations**

2009. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has opined that hawkers, squatters or vendors' right to carry on hawking, as fundamental right; and

(b) if so, whether Government will allow hawkers to carry on business/hawking in trains/stations?

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

#### **Execution of rail projects**

2010. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the names of the new projects/works which are to be executed under Eastern Railway, South-Eastern-Railway and N.F. Railway, as on 31 October, 2010; and

(b) the estimated cost of each new project, time-frame and fund allocation of (a) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Train accidents**

2011. SHRI R.C. SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 200 accidents and nearly 450 casualties have so far taken place since May, 2009;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this sharp increase in train accidents; and

(c) the efforts Government is taking to contain accidents and casualties?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis by the Railways to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Anti-collision Device (ACD), Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS), Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), LED Signals and Vigilance Control Device (VCD), etc.

To minimize fatalities in accidents, Centre Buffer Couplers (CBC) have been provided in coaches to prevent climbing of one coach over another in cases of accidents. Crashworthy features have also been provided in coaches. Fire retardant materials have also been used in the furnishing of coaches to minimize the spread of fire.

#### **Appointment of doctors in railway hospitals**

2012. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of irregularities and corruption have been reported in appointment of visiting specialist doctors in various railway hospitals, particularly in railway hospital, DLW, Varanasi;