

The front line staff on trains is responsible for providing First Aid medical facilities in trains. There is no policy to provide compensation to the passengers who die in trains for want of medical facilities in trains as Hospital like facilities cannot be provided in running trains.

Deterioration of IInd AC coaches

3000. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that condition of IInd AC sleeper coaches is deteriorating day-by-day;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to replace all the old coaches; and

(c) the details of Government plans in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise. However, coaches are replaced when they are condemned on age-cum-condition basis. Coaches beyond codal life are not used in commercial passenger service.

Gulbarga Bidar Railway Line

3001. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to link Gulbarga Bidar railway line;

(b) what is the total estimate costs of this project;

(c) how much period will be required for the completion of this project;

(d) how much amount has been provided for the year 2006-07 in the budget; and

(e) how many stations will be coming under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) Gulbarga-Bidar new line is a sanctioned work which has been taken up.

(b) The total anticipated cost of this work is Rs. 369.70 crore.

(c) The completion of the work will depend upon the overall availability of resources and no target date for completion of the work has yet been fixed.

(d) An amount of Rs. 10.00 crore has been provided for the work in Budget 2006-07.

(e) A total of 11 stations comprising of 4 halt stations and 7 crossing stations have been proposed on the section excluding Bidar (Khanapur) and Gulbarga which are existing stations.

Special purpose vehicles to fund port connectivity

3002. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry plans to set up seven special purpose vehicles to fund port connectivity projects with public private partnership;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating those falling in the Orissa State; and

(c) how far these project would help the steel plants located in Orissa in fast movement of freight traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has signed five Memorandum of Understanding for creating project specific Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for following port connectivity projects—Bharuch-Dahej Gauge Conversion, Surat-Hazira New Line, Bhildi-Samdari Gauge Conversion, Obulavaripalle-Krishnapatnam, New Line, and Haridaspur-Paradip New Line. Haridaspur-Paradip New Line is the only port connectivity project in Orissa with public-private partnership.

(c) Haridaspur-Paradip New Line in Orissa is expected to handle iron ore traffic between Banspani and Paradip Port and Coking Coal from Paradip Port to various steel plants.

Upgradation scheme in Orissa

3003. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start up-gradation scheme of rail