

(a) by when the target of doubling of Gorakhpur-Bhatni rail line was supposed to be completed and the reasons for delay;

(b) by when the construction of Bhatni-Thawe new rail line was supposed to be completed and whether the required land for this propose has been acquired;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the project of doubling of Burhwal-Barabanki rail section of North-Eastern railway would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) Doubling of Gorakhpur-Kusmahi-Chauri Chura section (24.54 Km) has been completed. Further, doubling of Chauri Chura -Bhatni (45.86 km) has been taken up and is likely to be completed by March' 2012. The project is progressing as per availability of resources.

(b) Bhatni-Thawe new line is not a sanctioned project.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Doubling of Burhwal-Barabanki section (29 Km.) has been taken up. Burhwal-Jahangirabad section (19 km) is expected to be completed by March' 2012 and target for remaining section of Jahangirabad-Barabanki (10 km) has not been fixed.

#### **Train accidents due to unmanned level crossing**

1839. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents at unmanned level crossings in the country have increased during the last two years;

(b) if so, the total number of accidents reported at unmanned level crossings across the country, place-wise; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to increase in the volume of rail traffic, unmanned level crossings have become accident prone areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) The number of incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road users decreased from 65 in 2007-08 to 62 in 2008-09 and then increased to 65 in 2009-10. In the

current year from April 2010 to February 2011, such incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings decreased from 58 to 39 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Zone-wise and year-wise number of unmanned level crossing accidents occurred during the last two years is given below:

Railway	No. of Accidents at Unmanned Level Crossings		
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (upto February)
Central	-	-	1
Eastern	1	-	-
East Central	3	4	5
Northern	3	15	7
North Eastern	11	8	4
Northeast Frontier	1	5	2
North Western	11	1	4
Southern	5	9	3
South Central	4	4	3
South Eastern	1	4	4
Western	9	6	5
East Coast	5	1	-
South Western	1	4	1
West Central	2	1	-
North Central	2	2	-
South East Central	3	1	-
TOTAL	62	65	39

(c) No, Sir. Various steps have been taken by the Railways to prevent such incidents at the unmanned level crossings which include ensuring availability of basic infrastructure at level crossings, public awareness and publicity campaigns through electronic and print media, mass messaging (SMSs) to educate the road users, joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to check

the erring road users, progressive manning, provision of subway at technically feasible locations, construction of diversion road upto manned gates/grade separators (ROB/RUB), closure of such unmanned gates which are having negligible Train Vehicle Units (TVU), etc.

**Charging different rates of licence fee**

1840. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the licence fee on gross sales turnover is being charged at different rates from the book stalls operating in Railways by unemployed graduates, major bookstall contractors and philanthropic and social organizations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for charging different rates from different categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):  
(a) and (b) As per policy guidelines, the licence fee for bookstall/trolley/counter table etc has been revised with effect from 23-07-2006 at the rate of 12% on gross sales turnover per annum subject to a fixed minimum amount according to the category of stations for major bookstall contractors and unemployed graduates except philanthropic and social organizations. The license fee for bookstalls by philanthropic and social organizations is fixed at the rate of 2.5% on gross sales turnover per annum since they have to sell their own publications only and are not allowed to sell periodicals and magazines which are permitted to other bookstall licensees.

**Modernisation of railway stations in Tamil Nadu**

1841. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the action taken by Government for modernization of Palayamkottai and Armuganeri Railway Stations in the State of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):  
Augmentation/upgradation of passenger amenities at stations is a continuous exercise and works in this regard are undertaken depending upon the need and volume of the passenger traffic. All the essential amenities as per norms have already been provided at Palayamkottai and Armuganeri stations. Various works such as platform fencing, new water supply line for supply of drinking water