

(c) if not, what steps Government have taken for the convenience of rail passengers at railway stations, since they are being looted by licensed/unlicensed porters?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing rates of portage charges are displayed at prominent locations at the stations and regular announcements in this regard are made through Public Address System. Frequent checks are also made against the licensed porters and whenever they are found indulging in overcharging, their badges are suspended/terminated.

Budgetary support for funding railway projects

2538. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of railway projects have been taken in hand since 1996 throughout the country without requisite survey;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have a throw forwards of projects of Rs. 47,354 crores as on April, 2005; and

(c) what initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources for funding these projects apart from budgetary support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A number of initiatives have been taken in the last few years for generation of additional resources through project specific funding for National Projects, funding from Ministry of Defence, Public/Private partnership and non-budgetary initiatives for National Rail Vikas Yojana. Remote Area Rail Samparak Yojana has also been announced in the interim budget 2004-05 which envisages investment of Rs. 20,000 crore in 5 years on projects which have been taken up on socio-economic consideration for development of backward, remote and under-developed areas. However, the resources for this Yojana are yet to be tied up.