

[17 March, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

has been completed. The feasibility study suggested the following alignments:

In India:

(i) Construction of new rail link between Jiribam-irnpnai-Moreh at a cost of Rs. 2941.08 crore.

In Myanmar:

(ii) Construction of a new rail link between Tamu (Moreh)- Kalay-Segyi at a cost of Rs. 1339.02 crore and rehabilitation of existing line from Segyi-Chaungu Myohaung at a cost of Rs. 283.959 crore.

(c) No decision has been taken with regard to setting up rail link with Burma. However, a new line from Jiribam- Imphal Road (Tupul) has been taken up to provide connectivity to Imphal and the same is targeted for completion by March 2010.

(d) and (e) The security situation in the border areas is under constant review.

Forest cover along railway lines

2545. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether vast tracts of land along the railway lines have been notified as protected forests, but are lying neglected;

(b) if so, what is the Government's policy to maximize forest-tree-cover over this area;

(c) whether the State Government of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have requested that the State Forest Departments may be allowed to plant trees in these open areas along the railway lines and to manage the plantation in these areas without payment of revenues, in the interest of FTC and ecology; and

(d) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some of the railway land along side railway track has been declared by forest Department as

'Protected Forest.' Plantation on such land has been undertaken by Forest Departments.

(c) and (d) As per the policy, afforestation within the station premises *i.e.* near stations, in colonies, workshops, major level crossings etc. is carried out by the Railways themselves or through contracts. In the midsections, railway land may be entrusted to the State Forest Departments for undertaking plantation on railway land.

Rape cases in running trains

2546. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been increase in the rape cases on the running trains;
- (b) if so, the comparative figures thereof during the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether Government/Railway Police Personnel have failed to provide security to the passengers and were the last to reach the spot where the crime has happened; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) Number of incidents of rape reported on the running trains during the last three years over Indian Railways are as under:—

Year	Number of rape cases reported
2003	4
2004	9
2005	8

(c) and (d) Maintenance of law and order is a State subject and powers to investigate Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes are vested with Police.