

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) As on 01.04.2011. Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects under new lines, gauge conversions and doublings across the country requiring about Rs. 1,25,000 cr. for completion. Due to limited availability of resources, projects take long time in completion. The targets for the projects are generally fixed on yearly basis based on the availability of resources and progress and many of the projects get completed in phases. The main reasons for delay have been paucity of funds, delay in land acquisition, court cases and forestry clearance, failure of contracts and contractors, adverse law and order conditions and non availability of material and other economical reasons affecting the progress. Ongoing projects undergo cost escalation on account of delays as above and change in the standard of construction and technology, scope of work, inflation, etc. No fixed time frame for completion of all the projects is feasible in such a scenario.

Recommendations/suggestions of Planning Commission

1513. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has recommended to Railways to hive off its production units and outsource non-core activities like catering and ticketing to trim the size of the establishment in order to bring in higher efficiency in its primary function of running trains; and

(b) if so, the details of recommendations/suggestions of Planning Commission to improve the railway infrastructure in the country and Government's response thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Railways' loss during current financial year

†1514. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for Railways' loss in the current financial year;

(b) whether Railways is formulating any plan to meet this loss after analysing reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.