

Improvement in condition of Railways

†2772. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for no improvement in the situation despite spending lakhs of rupees every year on the safety of train passengers, maintenance of trains and beautification of stations;
- (b) whether action would be taken against the guilty railway officials for making no improvement in situation of train accidents, safety of passengers and condition of stations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The number of consequential train accidents on account of Collisions, Derailments, Fire, Manned Level Crossings and other Miscellaneous reasons on Indian Railways have declined from 335 in 2001-02 to 269 in 2002-03, 239 in 2003-04, 169 in 2004-05, 169 in 2005-06, 123 in 2006-07, 129 in 2007-08, 115 in 2008-09, 100 in 2009-10 and further to 93 in 2010-11. There has been marked improvement in Safety record of Indian Railways.

As regards beautification of stations which is a continuous process, the condition/amenities of the stations have improved wherever the work of upgradation/improvement/beautification of station has been taken up.

(b) to (d) Disciplinary action has been taken against the erring officials found responsible for train accidents. During 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and the current year from April to July, 2011, major and minor penalties have so far been imposed on 200 and 273 Railway officials, respectively. Out of these, 80 Railway officials have been removed/dismissed from Railway service during this period.

Gauge conversion in Gujarat

†2773. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of number of railway lines surveyed in Gujarat during last three years for conversion into broad gauge;
- (b) the steps taken by Railways for conversion of these railway lines (including Amreli) of Gujarat into broad gauge as per the survey; and
- (c) if so, the time-limit for conversion of these railway lines into broad gauge and the details of funds made available for this scheme?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) During last three years, two gauge conversion surveys have been undertaken in the State of Gujarat. Out of these, the gauge conversion of Bhuj-Naliya (101.35 km.) with extension to Vayor (24.65 km.) has been included in 2008-09. Preliminary activities like preparation of plan, geo-technical investigation, etc. have been taken up. Sanction of detailed estimate is in process. An outlay of ` 60 crore has been provided for the project during 2011-12. No target date for completion of the project has yet been fixed. Survey for gauge conversion of Khijadiya-Amreli-Visayadar-Junagarh is in progress and is likely to be completed by September, 2011. Further consideration of the proposal will be feasible once the survey report becomes available and the same is examined in this Ministry.

Development of Sabarmati railway station

2774. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of Gujarat has requested for development of Sabarmati railway station to reduce the vehicular traffic near Kalupur station and thereby reducing overcrowding and pollution at the station;
- (b) whether Railways have found merit in the request; and
- (c) if so, the time-frame envisaged for full development of Sabarmati railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no station by the name of Kalupur in Gujarat. However, Ahmedabad station is located in Kalupur area.

Sabarmati station is envisaged to be developed as a satellite station to Ahmedabad Station. A number of works like provision of two high level platforms, foot over bridge connecting platforms no. 1 and 2 and 3, widening of entry and exit, paved circulating area, improvement to facade of station building and new waiting rooms have been completed at Sabarmati station. Additional works for further development of Sabarmati are at the planning stage. These works will help in the reduction of vehicular traffic and pollution in Kalupur area thereby decongesting Ahmedabad station. Improvement of amenities, particularly at important stations, is an ongoing exercise and steps are taken on a regular basis in this direction.

Irregularities in e-ticket bookings

2775. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are irregularities in e-ticket bookings inspite of the imposition of restricted timings for e-ticket agents;