

(a) whether India has signed an agreement to construct a 900 km railway line to connect Chabahar Port in Iran to the mineral rich region Hajigak in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost of the rail link; and

(c) whether this has any reaction from Pakistan; if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Norms for double stack container trains

1393. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for running double stack container trains;

(b) whether Kandla - Bhatinda section meets the norms; and

(c) if so, whether Government intends to run double stack container trains on Kandla - Bhildi - Jodhpur - Bhatinda sector?

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

(a) Running of double stack container trains depends upon the route having sufficient clearances for accommodating the maximum moving dimensions of such trains, and is also based on customer demand and traffic materialization.

(b) No, Sir. The Kandla - Bhatinda section does not meet the above norm.

(c) Does not arise.

Unused MPLADS fund

1394. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of MPLADS fund is lying unutilized in U.P.;

(b) the time by which this amount would be distributed among incumbent Members of Parliament;

(c) whether any policy has been formulated for this distribution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As on 31.10.2011, the unutilized MPLADS fund of Lok Sabha MPs and Rajya Sabha MPs from Uttar Pradesh was Rs.358.59 crore [Rs.85.84 crore (14th Lok Sabha) and Rs.272.75 crore (15th Lok Sabha)] and Rs.178.48 crore respectively.

(b) to (d) Provision to distribute the unspent balances of former Members of Parliament already exists in the MPLADS guidelines. The Ministry issues directions from time to time for distribution of unspent/uncommitted balances of the former MPs. Apart from the guidelines, the Ministry has issued circular to all State/UT Governments to conduct a review with all nodal districts regarding distribution of unspent balance of Rajya Sabha MPs. Similarly, the nodal district authorities were also directed to complete all works pertaining up to 14th Lok Sabha before 30.09.2010 and distribute unspent balance of funds positively by 31st December, 2010. As per information available with the Ministry, an amount of Rs.5,93,81,009.62 has been distributed among the sitting MPs of 15th Lok Sabha in Uttar Pradesh.

Delay in infrastructural core sector industries

1395. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of infrastructure core sector industries that have been delayed beyond a decade;

(b) the amount of cost escalations due to the delays;

(c) the main factors leading for their delay; and

(d) the manner in which Government proposes to get rid of these factors and ensure timely completion of projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) As on 31st August, 2011, out of 553 central sector projects costing Rs. 150 crore and above on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, only 3 projects were delayed beyond a decade.