

(a) whether Government had accorded sanctions to convert metre gauge line into broad gauge from Jaipur to Ganganagar in the year 2008;

(b) if so, whether the work of gauge conversion has started; and

(c) if so, by when this work would be completed?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Gauge conversion of Churu-Sadulpur-Suratpura has been completed & commissioned. Nawalgarh-Loharu and Sriganganagar - Hanumangarh sections are targeted for completion during 2011-12.

Gauge conversion of remaining portion of Jaipur-Sriganganagar railway line will be completed in the coming years subject to availability of resources.

Establishment of Medical college in Trivandrum

1387. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have announced establishment of a medical college in Trivandrum, Kerala;

(b) if so, the status of the project; and

(c) by when the project would be completed?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present Medical Colleges identified under Phase-I are being taken up. Medical College at Trivandrum shall be taken up subsequently.

(c) No time frame can be given at present.

PCO booths at railway stations

1388. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCO booths inside railway stations;

(b) the number of PCO booths allotted to disabled persons;

- (c) whether Railways have revised its policy for allotment of PCO booths;
- (d) if so, the number of PCO booths that have stopped operating since the policy was revised; and
- (e) whether Railways would take any proactive steps to help the disabled persons to set up PCO booths?

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

- (a) 1083 PCO booths are available at stations over Indian Railways.
- (b) 459 PCO booths have been allotted to the physically handicapped.
- (c) No revision has been made in STD/ISD/PCO booths policy since 2004.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) A quota of 25% has been prescribed for disabled persons in allotment of STD/ISD/PCO Booths at stations over Indian Railways.

Model railway stations in Jharkhand

1389. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of model railway stations in Jharkhand as on date;
- (b) the details of railway stations identified for development as model railway stations in the State during last three years along with the funds allocated/released and spent thereon, so far;
- (c) the number of model stations out of them that have been developed, so far; and
- (d) the time by which the remaining stations are likely to be developed/modernised?

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

- (a) The details of Model railway stations in Jharkhand are as under:

Baidyanathdham, Barkakana, Barharwa, Bokaro Steel City, Chakradharpur, Daltonganj, Dhanbad, Garhwa Road, Hatia, Jasidih, Koderma, Madhupur, Parasnath, Ranchi, Sahibganj and Tatanagar.