

physical training lessons have been introduced in training centres especially for safety category staff to enable them to cope with stress involved in their job. Disaster Management training is also imparted to select safety category staff and also for line staff in train operations.

(d) Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. As on 01.04.2011, the number of vacant posts in the safety category is 1,26,304. Notifications for filling most of these vacant posts have been issued.

#### **Projects in North-East**

2769. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of present status of Rangiya-Murkongseleek gauge conversion indicating target set for its completion, passenger train services likely to be started alongwith total outlay, amount released, utilized and achievement made since it has been declared as a National Project;

(b) whether special efforts are being made by Railways towards completion of projects for development of rail network in North Eastern region after declaring them as a National Project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and project-wise steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Gauge conversion of Rangiya-Murkongseleek (510.33 km) section is a sanctioned National Project. On this project, land acquisition, earthwork, bridges and track work have been taken up on entire stretch and the works are in various stages of progress. Rangiya-Rangpara North (123.6 km.) section of this project is targeted for completion by March, 2012. An expenditure of ` 565.27 crore has been incurred upto March, 2011 and outlay of ` 283.00 crore has been provided for this project for the year 2011-12.

(b) and (c) A dedicated non lapsable fund namely "North Eastern Region Rail Development Fund" (NERRDF) has been created for providing assured fund flows to National Projects of Northeast Region. Besides, efforts are being made for early completion of these projects by close monitoring of progress of the works, follow up with revenue department and forest department for handing over of remaining revenue and forest land, deployment of security forces in the areas affected by law and order problems by coordinating Ministry of Home Affairs, etc.

#### **Encroachment of railway land in Assam**

2770. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway land under encroachment in Assam and especially in Guwahati;

(b) whether N.F. Railway has proposed to allot surplus land to various organisations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) The State of Assam is served by Northeast Frontier Railway. The area of land under encroachments in Northeast Frontier Railway is approximately 410 Acre, out of which 2.10 Acre is under encroachments in Guwahati.

(b) and (c) Railway land is mostly in the form of narrow strips along tracks and is generally required for Railways' own developmental works such as doubling, third line, quadrupling, gauge conversion, freight corridors, yard remodelling, traffic facility works, workshops, etc. as well as for servicing and maintenance of track and other infrastructure. In the interim period, Railways have undertaken/plan to undertake commercial development and various other Railway related developmental works on land which is not immediately required for its operational needs, wherever feasible, within the ambit of guidelines laid down from time to time.

#### **Surprise checks to ensure cleanliness and passenger amenities**

2771. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether standard of cleanliness in railway coaches as well as on platform has gone down considerably in recent years;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken by Railways to ensure cleanliness and better passenger amenities in coaches and on platforms for passengers;

(c) whether any surprise checks are being carried out to ensure proper upkeep of coaches and railway stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Railways always endeavour to improve upon the standards of cleanliness and hygiene in coaches and stations.

For further improving upon the standards of cleanliness in coaches, schemes like **Intensive mechanized cleaning, On Board House-Keeping Services (OBHS) and cleaning attention to trains during their stoppage at "Clean Train Stations"** etc. have also been launched. Indian Railways have also planned multi-pronged action by synergizing technology, education of users and provision of better mechanized equipments to improve upon the standards of cleanliness at stations.

(c) and (d) Regular Inspections/Checks are carried out at various levels to monitor the standard of cleanliness and upkeep of coaches and stations and punitive action is