

Connecting border areas of Nepal with new railway lines

†2302. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives being taken by Government to connect the border areas of Nepal with new railway line;

(b) whether survey related to these projects have been completed; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government towards construction of these projects in view of the survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) To provide rail connectivity to Nepal, five routes were surveyed as under: -

Sl. No.	Proposed rail links		Distance (in Km)	Estimated cost (in ₹ cr.)
	From	To		
1.	Jogbani (Bihar)	Biratnagar (Nepal)	18	241
2.	Jayanagar (Bihar)	Bijalpura (Nepal) and extension to Bardibas	69	470
3.	Nepalganj Road (Uttar Pradesh)	Nepalganj (Nepal)	12	149
4.	Nautanwa (Uttar Pradesh)	Bhairahawa (Nepal)	15	176
5.	New Jalpaiguri (West Bengal)	Kakarbhitia <i>via</i> Panittanki (Nepal)	46	358

Survey for all the above routes has been completed. Out of these five routes, two projects namely Jogbani - Biratnagar new line and Jayanagar - Bijalpura Gauge Conversion with extension to Bardibas have been included the Railway Budget in the year 2010-11 and are in different stages of execution.

Train accidents

†2303. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train accidents occurred in the country this year, indicating the number of people who lost their lives and those got injured in these accidents;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that the main reason behind these accidents is the deplorable condition of railway system;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check such accidents; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) During the current year from April to July, 2012, a total of 24 consequential train accidents excluding incidents of trespassing at unmanned level crossings, took place on Indian Railways. 59 persons lost their lives and 156 persons sustained injuries in these accidents.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Anti Collision Device (ACD)/Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), etc.

Target for constructing new railway lines

2304. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any target to lay new railway lines and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of new railway lines laid out of the target, so far;

(c) whether there is a shortfall in laying of the new railway lines;

(d) whether Government has analyzed the factors responsible for it and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of steps taken to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A target for construction of 700 Km of new line has been fixed during the year 2012-13. Against target of 700 Km, an achievement of 24 Km of new lines has been made till 31.07.2012.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.