

Construction of new electric railway line

†2291. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work of new electric railway line being constructed between Bhusawal and Surat *via* Jalgaon, Amalner, Shindkheda, Dondaicha and Nandurbar in Maharashtra under Central Railway would be completed;

(b) the length of railway line, already constructed and yet to be constructed, in kilometres;

(c) the amount of money spent on construction of the said line, till date;

(d) whether more employees can be appointed in stations and at railway lines once the said railway line is ready; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) There is already an existing electrified double line between Bhusawal-Jalgaon and Surat-Udhna. Doubling of Udhna-Jalgaon sections (306.93 km) with electrification has been taken up. Doubling and electrification of Vyara-Ukaisongarh (20 km) and Amolner-Dharangaon (25 km) sections have been completed. Ukaisongarh-Chinchpada (40 km) Dharangaon-Jalgaon (25 km) sections are targeted for doubling and electrification during 2012-13. An expenditure of ₹ 364.97 crores has been incurred upto July, 2012 and an outlay of ₹ 130.00 crores has been provided for this project for the year 2012-13.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. More employees may be appointed as per maintenance and operational requirement once doubling and electrification is completed and commissioned for passenger traffic.

Railway connectivity

†2292. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways will consider extending stretch of EMU trains running between Saharanpur and Ambala Cantt. by 4 kilometre upto Tapri station;

(b) if so, by when and if not, reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railways have received demand of extending Sangam Express running between Meerut city and Allahabad upto Saharanpur;

(d) if so, by when this demand will be accepted;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether Ministry has conducted any survey for extending operation of Sangam Express upto Saharanpur or whether any departmental report has been submitted;

(f) if so, details thereof; and

(g) the details of doubling of railway line between Bayanheli, Muzaffarnagar and Tapri, Saharanpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Electrification work on Saharanpur-Tapri is in progress and planned for completion by March, 2013. However there is no EMU (Electrical Multiple Unit) service between Ambala and Saharanpur. MEMU (Mainline EMU) services are running on this section. Extension of MEMU trains running between Ambala Cantt. and Saharanpur upto Tapri is not feasible at present due to Saharanpur and Tapri being a non-electrified section.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. Representation for extension of 14163/14164 Allahabad-Meerut City Sangam Express upto Saharanpur has been received. At present extension of 14163/14164 Allahabad-Meerut City Express upto Saharanpur is not feasible due to operational constraints.

(g) Doubling of Muzaffarnagar-Baman Heri-Tapri rail line is presently not under consideration.

Unmanned railway crossings

2293. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway crossings in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any immediate plan to provide attendants at all unmanned crossings in order to check further accidents and loss of human lives etc.; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) As on 01.04.2012, there are 13,530 unmanned level crossings (excluding cattle and canal crossings) in the country. The State-wise details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) It has emerged from a study of pattern of accidents that manning of unmanned level crossings is not an ideal solution. Therefore, the policy of manning of unmanned level crossings has been reviewed. Accordingly Railway have decided to progressively eliminate all unmanned level crossings by:

(i) Closure - Closing unmanned level crossings having NIL/negligible Train Vehicle Units (TVUs)