

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, Railways, strategy to avoid inconvenience to passengers due to delay in rail traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (e) With the onset of foggy weather, trains in both saturated and non-saturated routes get delayed due to impaired visibility. Provision of LED signals tends to reduce the delay due to better visibility of signals by the Loco Pilots. Advance action especially on saturated routes is taken, every year, by notifying cancellation of less patronized trains so that line capacity improves and remaining trains are able to run with lesser delays. The spare rakes so made available by cancellation of trains are often utilized to originate trains right time, wherever operationally feasible, if the pairing rake is late, thereby reducing passenger inconvenience. However, even with available technical inputs, a permanent solution to the problem of mobility of trains during fog does not appear to be on hand for the present.

(b) Fog has been affecting trains running on Indian Railways especially in the northern part of the country, almost every year.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Introduction of a fast passenger train between Durgapur and Howrah

1663. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for introduction of a fast passenger train between Durgapur and Howrah is pending since long;

(b) whether it is also a fact that detailed survey for this purpose has already been made; and

(c) if so, by when the train is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

- (c) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion in Rajasthan

†1664. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total length of new railway tracks laid in 2011-12;
- (b) by when the work of laying broad gauge line from Udaipur to Ahmedabad would be completed;
- (c) the number of meter gauge lines in Rajasthan which would be converted into broad gauge this year; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) 727 Km of new lines were laid across the country during 2011-12.

(b) No target date for completion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur Gauge Conversion project including Modasa-Shamlaji (New Line) has been fixed.

(c) and (d) 2 gauge conversion projects/sections namely, Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar (Part){18 Km} and Sikar-Loharu (122.13 Km) falling fully/partly in the State of Rajasthan have been targeted for completion during 2012-13.

Exorbitant charging by porters

1665. SHRI AHMAD SAEED MALIHABADI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on most of the major railway stations, licensed porters are charging exorbitant amount from passengers;
- (b) the reasons for taking no remedial and preventive action to stop the harassment of passengers;
- (c) what effective steps will be taken by Railways for enforcement of approved charges by the porters; and
- (d) the total number of licensed porters under Railways?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.