

- (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.