

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (f) There is already an existing electrified double line between Bhuswal-Jalgaon and Surat-Udhna sections. The works of doubling of Udhna - Jalgaon section with electrification (306.93 Km.) has been included in the year 2008-09 and are in different stages of progress. Doubling and electrification of Amolner- Dharangaon (25 Km.) and Vyara-Ukaisongarh sections have been completed and commissioned. Further, Ukaisongarh- Chinchpada (40 Km.) and Dharnagaon- Paldhi (20 Km.) sections are targeted for completion during 2012-13. An expenditure of Rs.276.81 crore has been incurred upto March, 2012. An outlay of Rs.190 crore has been provided for this project for the year 2012-13.

Accidents at unmanned railway crossings

1671. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that incidents of accidents at unmanned railway crossings are increasing day by day;
- (b) the number of accidents occurred during the last three years and the number of persons who lost their lives; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The number of consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings caused mainly due to negligence of road vehicle users decreased from 65 in 2009-10 to 48 in 2010-11. However, such incidents increased to 54 in 2011-12. In the current year during April to November, 2012 also, such incidents increased from 30 to 36 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) The number of consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and the current year from April to November, 2012 and the loss of lives involved therein, is as under:

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	April to November, 2012
Number of consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings	65	48	54	36
Loss of lives	170	130	204	94

(c) Various steps have been taken by the railways to prevent incidents at the unmanned level crossings which include ensuring availability of basic infrastructure at these level crossings, public awareness and publicity campaigns through electronic and print media, mass messaging (SMSs) to educate the road users, joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to penalise the erring road users, progressive manning, provision of subway at technically feasible locations, construction of diversion road upto adjacent manned gates/grade separators (ROB/RUB), closure of such unmanned level crossings which are having negligible rail/road traffic, etc.

Railway connectivity in the KBK region of Odisha

1672. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to improve railway connectivity in the KBK region of Odisha;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether field survey of railway connectivity from Kantabanji to Jeypore via Rajkhariar and Nowarangpur has been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is considering this extension under 'special projects' category;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether Government is considering a new line between Nowarangpur and Jeypore in the first phase; and

(h) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY) : (a) and (b) Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 km.) and Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 km.) new line projects falling fully/partly in Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi (KBK) region of Odisha have been sanctioned. Lanjigarh-Bhowanipatna section of Lanjigarh-Junagarh has been completed. Part of Bhowanipatna-Junagarh (9 km.) and Khurda Road-Begunia (32 km.) section of Khurda Road-Bolangir new line projects are targeted to be completed in 2012-13. Outlays of Rs. 40 crore and Rs. 12 crore have been provided to Khurda Road-Bolangir and Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh new line projects respectively for the year 2012-13.