

(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.

(c) and (d) Kantabanji-Jeypore (*via* Rajkhariar and Nowarangpur) new line survey has not been completed.

(e) and (f) Do not arise at this stage.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Railway projects

†1673. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects approved by Railways, as on date, in different States during each of the last three years;

(b) the State-wise details of projects which are under construction for the last ten years along with the sanctioned amount of each of the project, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the steps taken by Railways to complete pending railway projects within stipulated time-frame; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Year-wise details of ongoing new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects included in Railway Budgets during the last ten years indicating year of approval, plan head, State, latest anticipated cost and length (in Km.) is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Railways have huge throwforward of ongoing projects with limited availability of resources. As a result, funds are thinly spread thus prolonging period of completion. Completion of projects also depends upon their relative priority. Apart from this, delay in land acquisition and forestry clearances, law & order problems, adverse monsoon & contract failures are main reasons affecting timely completion of projects.

To expedite completion of ongoing projects, efforts are made to generate extra budgetary financing through State participation, Public Private Partnership, defence funding, declaring some projects as National Projects, revival of Capital Fund and implementation of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

In addition, (i) the contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management and field units have been empowered with further delegation of powers; and (ii) Security, land acquisition and environment issues are also taken up with State Governments and Ministry of Environment & Forest for early approvals.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.