

conversion is targeted for completion in 2013-14 and will also provide a parallel alternative route to Dibrugarh.

(b) Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati including Katihar-Barsoi railway electrification project is falling partly in North Eastern (NE) Region. Out of 836 route km, 223 km falls in Assam. Estimated cost of this project is Rs.821.53 crore and outlay of Rs.102 crore has been provided during 2012-13. Project is planned for completion by October, 2015.

Increasing the number of coaches

†1678. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an increase in the number of passengers in the shuttle trains coming from Saharanpur, Meerut and Aligarh to New Delhi has been registered in the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons for reducing the number of coaches in these trains;

(c) whether Government would raise the number of coaches keeping in view the increasing crowd in these trains; and

(d) whether Government proposes to start new trains on these routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been an overall increase in passenger traffic on these sections over the last three years.

(b) and (c) No decision has been taken to permanently reduce the number of coaches in the train service coming from Saharanpur, Meerut and Aligarh to New Delhi. However, at times, a few trains had to be run with lesser number of coaches to meet critical surge of demand in other trains. Action has been initiated to run these trains with full composition by inducting more coaches. Besides, augmentation of train over Indian Railways is an on-going process subject to operational feasibility, commercial viability and availability of resources.

(d) There is no such proposal, at present.

Railway tracks in Himachal Pradesh

†1679. SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.