

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:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the extension of railway tracks in kilometres in Himachal Pradesh by Railways during the last three years;
- (b) the details thereof, year-wise;
- (c) whether any proposal for further extension is pending; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Churaru Takrala-Amb Andaura (11 km) rail link, which is a part of Nangal Dam-Talwara new line project, has been completed and commissioned in 2011-12.

(c) and (d) Churaru Takrala - Amb Andaura rail link is further proposed to be extended upto Talwara *via* Daulatpur Chowk and Kartoli Punjab. Moreover, Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri (63.1 km) and Chandigarh-Baddi (33.23 km) new line projects have also been sanctioned. Chandigarh-Baddi new line project has been stalled following refusal by State Government of Punjab and Chandigarh Administration to provide land required for the project.

#### **Extending Shaktipunj Express upto Bhopal**

1680. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received proposal from Government of Madhya Pradesh for extension of Howrah-Jabalpur Shaktipunj Express upto Bhopal with stoppage at Barganwa, Mandoura in Sidhi District;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is considering to approve the said proposal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the time-limit by when Howrah-Jabalpur Shaktipunj Express is likely to be extended upto Bhopal; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (e) A proposal has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The same has been examined, but not found feasible due to operational & resource constraints.