

(b) whether it is also a fact that the contractors charge more than the approved rates from passengers for food supplied to them in trains; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government against contractors to ensure supply of good quality food to passengers at approved rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways notifies the menu and tariff of Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains & standard meals including breakfast, tea and coffee while Chief Commercial Managers of Zonal Railways notify the menu and tariff of *a-la-carte* items. Some complaints on quality of food, overcharging etc. have been reported on the railways. To ensure good quality food to passengers at approved rates, elaborate supervision and monitoring mechanism has been put in place by the zonal railways to check quality and hygiene of food. Corrective actions in a time bound manner like counseling, warning, imposition of fine and even termination of contract etc, are taken according to the gravity of the offence.

Railway projects

1693. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as on 1st April, 2011 there were 340 ongoing new railway lines, gauge conversion and doubling railway projects requiring about Rs.1,24,229 crore for their completion;

(b) the present status thereof;

(c) how many of the above 340 projects have been completed, how many new projects have been added and by when would they be completed; and

(d) the cost escalation due to delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 01.04.2012, there are 347 ongoing new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects requiring Rs. 1.47 Lakh Crore for their completion. Projects are progressing as per availability of resources.

(c) During 2011-12, 4 new line, 5 gauge conversion and 19 doubling projects were completed out of 340 projects. In Supplementary Budget 2011-12, 2 new line

and 3 doubling projects was sanctioned. 5 new line projects, 2 gauge conversion projects and 23 doubling projects are included in the Railway Budget 2012-13. Target for completion of all projects has not been fixed.

(d) Cost escalation of railway projects is on account of large shelf of ongoing projects having huge throwforward with limited availability of resources. As a result, funds are thinly spread out among ongoing projects thus prolonging period of completion.

Train accidents

1694. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of train accidents, including accidents at unmanned and manned railway crossings, during last three years, till date, State-wise;
- (b) the details of persons died/injured, accidents-wise;
- (c) the details of compensation paid to dependents of victims, case-wise;
- (d) whether there is a rising trend of train accidents;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps proposed to bring down the accidents and resultant casualties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Zone-wise and year-wise number of consequential train accidents including accidents at manned level crossings and incidents of trespassing by road vehicle users at unmanned level crossings during 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and the current year from April to November, 2012, is as under:

| Railway | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | April to November, 2012* |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Central | 13 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| Eastern | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| East Central | 19 | 16 | 12 | 7 |
| Northern | 25 | 23 | 22 | 15 |