

(c) whether it is also a fact that roads are given more preference than railway; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) As on 01.04.1950, railways had 53,596 route kilometres which increased to 64,600 route kilometres as on 31.03.2012. The expansion of Broad Gauge network has been done by way of laying new lines, gauge conversion, laying double/multiple lines and since 1951, about 52,241 kilometres of Broad Gauge line has been laid/converted to Broad Gauge.

(c) and (d) Due to advantage of door to door service, particularly in respect of short and medium lead and non bulk traffic, road is the preferred mode for certain streams of traffic. To attract such traffic to Railways, Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and 15 other Private Container Operators have been permitted by Indian Railways to operate container trains with facilities for door to door service. Besides, Parcel leasing policy has been implemented to capture small volumes of non bulk traffic by providing end to end logistics.

Pre-paid taxi/auto booking counters at stations

2470. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers find it difficult to hire taxis autos at railway stations as the taxi/auto drivers demand upto three times the actual fare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there happens to be only one pre-paid booking counter at stations;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government proposes to set up more pre-paid counters at stations on the pattern of airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some difficulties have been reported.

(c) to (e) The provision of pre-paid counters at the stations depends upon importance of the station, space availability etc. The responsibility for setting up of pre-paid taxi booths lies with the State Government. Instructions already exist with the Zonal Railways to co-ordinate with the local civil authorities for arrangement of pre-paid taxi and three wheeler services at all A-1 category stations and also to ensure that traffic police officials properly supervise and regulate its implementation.

Railway lines in Chhattisgarh

†2471. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is provision for new railway lines for Chhattisgarh in the Railway Budget 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the work would be started on these lines;

(c) the places in Chhattisgarh where survey for new railway lines is to be undertaken;

(d) whether there is any proposal for conducting survey for railway lines at Girodpuri, the birth place of Guru Ghasidasji; and

(e) if so, the time by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Thirty three surveys for new lines to connect different places falling fully/partly in Chhattisgarh are in progress.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Eligibility criteria for DRM

2472. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the eligibility criteria to become Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) in Railways is 52 years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.