

(d) the quantum of annual financial loss, as per Government's assessment, being incurred by Railways through such operation of trains on unviable routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The average occupancy of trains on Indian Railways during the current financial year (upto October, 2012) is 92%. However, occupancy of trains is not uniform and it varies during peak and lean seasons. Train services are also operated for ensuring connectivity across the Indian Railway network.

(b) Indian Railways do not assess Train-wise/sector-wise profitability or loss.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Railway tunnel in Pir Panjal mountain range

273. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the proposed 11 kilometre long railway tunnel in Pir Panjal mountain range;

(b) the total estimated cost of this project;

(c) the current status of the project; and

(d) the estimated time period for the completion of the tunnel and its regular use?

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

(b) to (d) The 11 km long railway tunnel in the Pir Panjal mountain range is a part of Qazigund-Banihal section (19 km.) of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line project. The latest estimated cost of Qazigund-Banihal section is Rs. 1691.88 crore. Work on this section is nearing completion and targeted to be completed during the current financial year of 2012-13. The tunnel can be put to regular use once the Qazigund-Banihal section is completed and commissioned.

Gulbarga-Bidar railway line

274. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: