

(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:

- (a) when was laying of Gulbarga-Bidar railway line started;
- (b) the details thereof including total distance to be covered, the number of stations thereon and its original estimated project cost;
- (c) the reasons for the delay in work;
- (d) by when work would be completed and what would be its total cost; and
- (e) whether at present there is any problem by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Gulbarga-Bidar Railway line was included in the Railway Budget for the year 1997-98. The distance of this new line project is 140 km. and there are 11 stations. The original estimated cost of the project was Rs. 229.16 crore.

(c) and (d) No target date has been fixed for completion of this project and it is progressing according to availability of resources. The latest anticipated cost of this project is Rs. 776 crore.

(e) No, Sir.

#### **Rail Tariff Authority**

275. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has constituted Rail Tariff Authority (RTA) to decide train fares;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the RTA would take into account facilities like drinking water, sanitation and food before hiking the fares?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.