

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) 8 new lines, 1 gauge conversion, 10 doubling and 3 electrification projects falling fully/partly in Jharkhand have been taken up. Completion of these projects will augment railway network by 1353 km. Outlay of Rs. 574 crore has been provided for these projects during 2012-13. 163 km. of new lines and 32 km. of doubling sections are targeted for completion during 2012-13.

(d) to (f) Projects are undertaken railway-wise and not State-wise. Projects are sanctioned every year depending upon requirement/justification. Details of project to be sanctioned for whole of Twelfth Plan have not been firmed up. However, in 2012-13 *i.e* 1st year of Twelfth Plan, Manoharpur-Bondamunda (30 km.) and Rajkharswan-Chakardharpur (20 km.) doublings have been taken up in the State of Jharkhand.

Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited

911. PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no business has been carried out in Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (BWEL), Bihar, during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government contemplates to activate BWEL 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) Yes, Sir.

Accidents at unmanned level crossings

912. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents at level crossings have gone up from 12,894 in 2010 to 14,611 in 2011 and would cross 16,000 as per the trends shown in the first six months of 2012;

- (b) if so, the reasons that inspite of modern technology and manning of gates, the number of accidents and deaths are going up at level crossings;
- (c) how his Ministry would address this menace effectively; and
- (d) the break-up of 13,500 unmanned level crossings in the country, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The number of consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users decreased from 65 in 2009-10 to 48 in 2010-11. However, these incidents increased to 54 in 2011-12. In the current year during 1st April to 15th November, 2012, there have been 34 such incidents at unmanned level crossings in comparison to 30 during the corresponding period of the previous year. Loss of lives in the consequential incidents at unmanned level crossings during the last two years *i.e.* 2010-11, 2011-12 and the current year from 1st April to 15th November, 2012 is 130, 204 and 90, respectively.

(b) Incidents at unmanned level crossings over Indian Railways are caused mainly due to the negligence of road vehicle users in observing precautions laid down in Motor Vehicles Act while negotiating unmanned level crossings.

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Railways to prevent incidents at unmanned level crossings which include ensuring availability of basic infrastructure at these level crossings, public awareness and publicity campaigns through electronic and print media, mass messaging (SMSs) to educate the road users, joint ambush checks with involvement of civil authorities to penalise the erring road users, progressive manning, provision of subway at technically feasible locations, construction of diversion road upto adjacent manned gates/grade separators, Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge, closure of such unmanned level crossings which are having negligible rail/road traffic, etc.

(d) Zone-wise number of unmanned level crossings existing on Indian Railways as on 01.04.2012 is as under:

Railway	Number of Unmanned Level Crossings
1	2
Central	271
Eastern	314

1	2
East Central	724
East Coast	641
Northern	1371
North Central	460
North Eastern	1359
Northeast Frontier	743
North Western	1203
Southern	1005
South Central	873
South Eastern	831
South East Central	534
South Western	657
Western	2343
West Central	201
TOTAL	13530

Scarcity of packaged water

913. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether scarcity of packaged water has added to the miseries of the vendors at railway stations;

(b) whether vendors have complained that IRCTC is not supplying bottles of 'Rail Neer' according to demand;

(c) whether vendors claim that for inadequate supply, they are neither able to meet the demand nor can sell bottles of other companies not allowed by IRCTC;

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking to ensure adequate supply of Rail Neer bottles or permit vendors to sell bottles of other brands; and

(e) the steps taken by Railways to curtail price of packaged Rail Neer?