

(b) if so, whether it was agreed upon in the meeting to extend the railway line upto Baddi in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh had met Hon'ble Minister of Railways at the latter's office in New Delhi on 04.02.2013. However, it was an informal meeting and the content of discussion was not recorded.

Administrative cost incurred by Railways

4167. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are incurring heavy administrative cost in view of its huge administrative set up;

(b) if so, the details of the administrative cost being incurred by Railways during the last five years;

(c) the reasons for this huge administrative cost; and

(d) the efforts being made to reduce the administrative cost in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir. The administrative cost of Indian Railways (Rs. 6094.06 crore) constitutes only 7.24% of the Ordinary Working Expenses of Indian Railways (of Rs. 84215.92 crore) in the year 2012-13.

(b) Details of the administrative cost incurred by Indian Railways during the last 5 years is as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Administrative cost in Rs. crore	Ordinary Working Expenses (OWE) in Rs. crore	% of administrative cost to OWE
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e) = (c/d*100)
1.	2008-09	4139.42	54349.30	7.62%
2.	2009-10	5251.62	65810.35	7.98%
3.	2010-11	5147.51	68139.22	7.55%
4.	2011-12	5376.29	74537.41	7.21%

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e) = (c/d*100)
5.	2012-13 (provisional)	6094.06	84215.92	7.24%

(c) and (d) In view of the size of Indian Railways and its vast operations, the administrative cost being incurred by Railways is considered as reasonable.

Proposals from Gujarat

4168. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for new railway lines and doubling received from Gujarat during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of action taken thereon by Railways; and

(c) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Based on demands from the people and elected representatives of the State of Gujarat, survey for 33 new lines and 3 doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat have been sanctioned in the last three years and current year. Out of these, survey for 5 projects *i.e.* 5 new lines have been completed. The proposal for one new line project *i.e.* Bhavnagar-Khambhat via Mitli (130.60 km.) has been sent to Planning Commission for obtaining their "In Principle" approval.

Appointment on compassionate grounds

4169. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of applications are pending for appointment on compassionate grounds in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms adopted by Railways for appointment on compassionate grounds; and

(d) the steps taken by Railways to process these applications in a time-bound manner?