

**Defects location on tracks**

4172. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ultrasonic Fault Detectors presently being used are not advanced;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Khanna Safety Committee had recommended the purchase of German rail cars to locate the growing defects on tracks; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ultrasonic rail and weld testing machines presently being used on Indian Railways are quite advanced. These testing machines are at present analogue as well as digital types, but, most of these Ultra Sonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing machines are digital machines as digital machines are capable of data logging, saving and transferring scan to computers. Hence it has been planned to replace all analogue type of USFD testing machines available with Indian Railways by digital machines by the year 2014.

- (c) No, Sir. The Khanna Safety Committee had not recommended the purchase of German rail cars to locate the growing defects on tracks.
- (d) Does not arise.

**Linking capitals of NE region States/UTs**

4173. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to link all the capitals of NE region States/UTs by railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is proposed to be executed under public-private-partnership mode;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and