

3. Regular coordination meetings are held with State Police at all levels to ensure proper registration and investigation of crime by Government Railway Police (GRP).
4. Public awareness against crime like Drugging of passengers is done through regular announcements at stations and in trains.

Increase in charges on goods

1363. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have increased charges on goods twice last year;
- (b) if so, the details of charges increased on each item and the percentage of increase; and
- (c) how much amount Railways are planning to pool through the above hike?

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

(b) and (c) The impact on major commodities of the rationalization in freight rates that was implemented with effect from 6th March, 2012 is given in the following Table.

| Commodities | Lead (Kms) | Freight (in Rs. per tonne for the indicated lead) | | % age variation |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | prior to 6.3.2012 | After 6.3.2012 | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Coal | 550 | 526.10 | 631.20 | 20% |
| Raw Material for Steel Plants | 637 | 647.00 | 787.80 | 22% |
| Iron and Steel | 1070 | 1187.80 | 1457.10 | 23% |
| Iron ore | 569 | 653.00 | 822.10 | 26% |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------------------|------|--------|---------|-----|
| Cement | 567 | 544.20 | 685.10 | 26% |
| Foodgrains | 1200 | 916.80 | 1144.10 | 25% |
| Fertilizers | 886 | 696.80 | 869.60 | 25% |
| POL (Petroleum Products) | 645 | 820.60 | 984.80 | 20% |
| Other Misc. Goods | 639 | 404.40 | 492.40 | 22% |

Additional revenue that was expected to be generated on account of the aforesaid rationalization was approximately Rs. 16000 crores over a period of one year.

Subsequently, the rate of levy of Busy Season Charge was increased from 10% to 12% for all commodities except Foodgrains and Fertilizers with effect from 1st October, 2012. Additional revenue that is expected to accrue on account of this revision in Busy Season Charge is approximately Rs. 800 crores over the period from October, 2012 to March, 2013.

Projects under Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram Divisions

1364. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the allotment of funds by Railways for various projects under Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram Divisions under Southern Railway during the last three years;
- (b) how much of the allotted amount has actually been spent;
- (c) to what extent work of doubling, electrification, improvement of railway stations and construction of new lines has been completed;
- (d) to what extent work of construction of new coach factory at Palakkad and wagon factory at Cherthala has been taken up; and
- (e) by when these factories are expected to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Details of allotment of funds and actual expenditure incurred on various projects for new line, gauge conversion, doubling, electrification, improvement of railway stations and workshops including production units falling fully/partly under Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram Divisions during the last two years and current year are given as under:—