

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Some references including those from Honourable Members of Parliament have been received for development of Sidhpur and Palanpur stations.

Sidhpur and Palanpur stations have been identified for development as Adarsh station during the current year 2012-13. Mehsana station has already been developed as Modern station.

(c) to (e) Station-wise details of funds allocated/spent are not maintained. The expenditure on such works is funded under Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities'. The allocation and expenditure under Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities' on Western Railway, which cover Sidhpur and Palanpur stations during the current year is Rs.49.92 crore and Rs.34.38 (upto January, 2013) crore respectively.

Railway connectivity

2136. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI:

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not able to connect backward and remote regions of the country even after 65 years of Independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it has not been able to cover major areas in many States and has very little presence in the North-Eastern States and the Himalayan region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government would take to give special emphasis to North-Eastern States and the Himalayan region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) No mandate is available to Indian Railways to connect backward and remote regions. Some of the projects are taken up on socio-economic considerations which also connect backward and remote areas.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. 2602 Route Km of railway network already exists in North Eastern Region, 255.67 Route Km of railway network already exists in Jammu and

Kashmir, 296.26 Route Km of railway network already exists in Himachal Pradesh and 344.91 Route Km of railway network already exists in Uttarakhand States. As on 01.04.2012, 13 new line projects covering a length of 965 Km and 4 gauge conversion project having a length of 1510 Km have been taken up in North-Eastern States and 5 new line projects having a length of 595 Km falling fully/partly in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have been taken up in Himalayan region. The works are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Khurda Road-Bolangir New B.G. rail link

2137. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA:

SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of its announcement in the Railway Budget 2012-13 to complete and commission phase-I of Khurda Road-Bolangir new B.G. rail link project by March, 2013 and Phase-II by December, 2013; and

(b) if so, the progress of these two phases and the reasons for unsatisfactory progress, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Khurda Road-Begunia-Nayagarh Sections of Khurda Road-Bolangir project were targeted for completion during 2012-13.

Presently 86% of physical work in respect of Phase-I (from Khurda Road to Begunia) of Khurda Road-Bolangir New Line Project has been completed. Khurda Road-Khurda Town Section has been completed in 2012-13. Khurda Town — Sunakhela section falling on Khurda Road-Nayagarh is targeted for completion in 2013-14. Due to delay in availability of land and paucity of fund, target set for 2012-13 could not be achieved.

Amount generated through IRCTC

2138. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has privatized the services of railway catering; and