

(d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken/being taken in this regard including any assistance from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While the augmentation of locomotives meets the current demands over Indian Railways, anticipating future growth of traffic, the capacities of Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi and Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan are being expanded. A Diesel Locomotive Factory and an Electric Locomotive Factory are being planned through Joint Venture/Public Private Partnership route at Marhowra and Madhepura respectively.

(c) and (d) The targets for augmentation of locomotives and stainless steel open wagons indicated in the Integrated Railway Modernization Plan were for the period 2005 to 2010 and the same have been achieved.

#### **Electrification work**

127. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state by when Railways would take up the electrification work of Vizianagaram-Rayagada-Damanjodi, Rayagada-Titlagarh-Sambalpur B.G. Rail Link, Titlagarh-Raipur B.G. Rail Link and Haridaspur-Paradeep B.G. Rail Link sections to bring train operation of single track system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): Electrification of Vizianagaram-Rayagada-Singapur Road-Titlagarh-Raipur section is a sanctioned work of 2011-12 and work is in progress. Electrification of Jharsuguda-Sambalpur-Titlagarh and Sambalpur-Angul was included in Rail Budget 2012-13. Electrification proposal of Singapur Road-Damanjodi section is under scrutiny in Railway Board's Office and final decision shall be taken based on operational and financial considerations.

As regards, Haridaspur-Paradeep B.G. rail link, land acquisition and work on major bridges of Haridaspur-Paradeep new line project has been taken up. After completion of construction of new line, electrification of the new line will be undertaken.

#### **Research Designs and Standards Organisation**

128. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have set up Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) for development of new technologies for improvement of railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have fixed any time-frame in this regard;

(d) if so, whether RDSO is maintaining its scheduled time-frame;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (f) The Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) is an existing organization under Ministry of Railways and its functions include development, adoption and absorption of new technologies for use on Indian Railways. Technological upgradation/improvement in RDSO is an on-going process and has contributed towards continuous improvement in the reliability and maintainability of Railway assets, safety of train operations, operational efficiency etc.

#### **Increasing coal supplies**

129. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways and Coal India Limited are joining hands to increase coal supplies in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of modifications and outlay made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways, in coordination with Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited, has been striving to increase coal loading for increasing coal supplies in the country. The coal loading by Indian Railways has increased from 251.7 million tonnes in 2003-04 to 455.80 million tonnes in 2011-12. Further, 30 coal connectivity projects have been indentified by Ministry of Railways in consultation with Ministry of Power and