

(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

Ministry of Coal for ensuring swift evacuation and transportation of coal during Twelfth five year plan period and beyond. The projects are being given top priority and an Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted to monitor these projects at the highest level.

#### **Sanctioning of new projects**

130. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state that by when Railways would consider sanctioning of new projects, namely, Bhadrachalam Road (Andhra Pradesh)-Malkangiri-Jeypore-Junagarh-Lanjigarh Road-Talcher-Bimlagarh, Bargarh-Naupada-via Padmapur (120 Kms), Talcher-Gopalpur (245 Kms), Puri-Konark (35 Kms), Rupsa-Bangirposi to Gorumahisani (35 Kms), Badampahar to Keonjhar (70 Kms), Berhampur-Phulbani (169.8 Kms), Khurda Road-Rajatgarh bye passing Bhubaneswar (59 Kms) and Rayagada-Gopalpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 Km) and Talcher-Bimlagarh (154 Km) are already sanctioned new line projects.

The surveys for (i) Bhadrachalam Road (Andhra Pradesh) Malkangiri-Jeypore-Junagarh; (ii) Talcher-Phulbani-Lanjigarh; (iii) Puri-Konark (35 Kms); Khurda Road-Rajathgarh bypassing Bhubaneswar (59Km) are under various stages of completion.

The Surveys for (i) Bargarh-Naupada via Padmapur (120Kms); (ii) Talcher-Gopalpur (iii) Badampahar-Keonjhar (70Km); (iv) Berhampur-Phulbani (169.8 Kms) were completed and not considered for sanction due to their unremunerative nature and Railways' large throwforward of ongoing projects.

Survey for Rupsa-Bangiriposi to Gorumahisani was completed, but a more feasible alternate alignment from Buramara to Chakulia was sanctioned.

Survey for Rayagada-Gopalpur has already been completed.

#### **Railway network**

131. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways need to significantly augment its network to increase freight carrying capacity;