

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;