

gained during their field operation, maintenance and usage issues. Tentatively, the cost of retro-fitment is expected to be in the region of Rs.15 lakhs per coach as of today.

Hostels for wards of railway employees

142. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of hostels commissioned, so far, for the children of railway employees in the country;
- (b) whether these hostels are sufficient to meet the requirement;
- (c) if not, whether Government proposes to construct more such hostels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Indian Railways run 24 subsidized hostels for wards of railway employees.

(b) to (d) As per policy, hostels are set up for wards of Railway employees at centers of education. Proposals exist for expansion of hostel capacity at Pune and for new hostels at Lucknow, Tiruchchirappali, Coimbatore, Indore, Vadodara and Nagpur.

Setting up shops in trains

143. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up shops in the Shatabdi trains to help passengers make purchases of goods and material;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this is also proposed to be started in other long distance trains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) A pilot project for on-board shopping was

initiated on experimental basis for a period of one month on a few selected Shatabdi express trains originating from New Delhi for sale of items related to travel, souvenir etc. to explore the potential of onboard shopping facility as a passenger amenity to enable the Railways to conceive a policy on this based on outcome of the above pilot project.

Railway projects in Bihar

144. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have taken any railway lines for doubling and gauge conversion, especially in Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details and status thereof, as on date;
- (c) how much is the budget for those projects and the details of completion schedule thereof;
- (d) the completion schedule of doubling of Patna-Gaya railway line;
- (e) whether Naini and Maihar track is being taken up under above scheme; and
- (f) the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) At present, 05 doubling projects falling fully/partly in Bihar covering a length of 147 km at a cost of Rs. 896 crore have been taken up. An outlay of Rs. 70 crore has been provided for these projects during 2012-13. Whereas 06 gauge conversion projects covering a length of 1197 km at a cost of Rs. 3911 crore have been taken up. An outlay of Rs. 80 crore has been provided for these projects during 2012-13. Target/completion schedule are decided annually depending upon availability of resources. During 2012-13, 65 km of gauge conversion comprising Chauradano-Raxaul, Murliganj-Banmakhi and Banmakhi-Purnia are targeted for completion.

- (d) Patna-Gaya Doubling has already been completed and commissioned.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise.