

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.