

Ongoing railway line projects

1697. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of railway projects are languishing for want of adequate resources;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the ongoing railway line projects in various States, State-wise;
- (d) the funds allocated for these projects during each of the last four years;
- (e) the progress made so far on these projects; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by Railways for completion of these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on 01.04.2013, there are 368 ongoing railway projects consisting of 156 New Line, 43 Gauge Conversion and 169 Doubling projects having a throw forward of Rs.1,78,216 Crore and limited availability of resources. Fund constraint is one of the main reasons for delay in timely execution of these projects. Apart from constraint of resources, delay in land availability, long time taken for forestry clearance, adverse law and order conditions, failure of contractors, court cases in regard to alignment, non availability of materials, change in the standard of construction and technology, change in scope of work etc. also affect the progress.

(c) State-wise progress of railway projects is not maintained.

(d) The total amount allocated and expenditure incurred on New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects during the last three years and current year are as under:

(Rs. in crores)					
Plan head		Year			
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
New Line	Outlay	3757.00	7118.50	6084.5	6100
	Expenditure	5272.03	6443	6186.9	-
Guage Conversion	Outlay	1625.00	2723.00	2025	2125
	Expenditure	3232.04	28008.5	2679.6	-
Doubling	Outlay	1817.90	5408.00	3438	3025
	Expenditure	2165.00	2372.75	2462.6	-

(e) and (f) Projects are progressing as per availability of resources. To expedite completion of projects, a number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources through non-budgetary measures like funding by State Governments and other beneficiareis, execution of projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited on Special Purpose Vehicle basis etc. Besides, to reduce delays on account of land acquisition, security issues and forestry clearances etc, meetings with State Officials at various levels are held from time to time. Field units have been empowered with further delegation of powers and the contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management.

Study to assess quality of food and catering services in railways

1698. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the quality of food and catering service in Railways;