

- (d) Does not arise.

Dimapur-Kohima railway link project

2318. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dimapur-Kohima Railway Link project was announced by Government, and if so, the status of this project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the project is far behind the time-frame set by Government for its completion; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Dimapur-Kohima (88 km) new line project was sanctioned in 2006-07 at a cost of Rs. 850 crores. Final Location Survey of the project has been completed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Project delayed for want of approval of final alignment by State Government on account of agitation by Villagers of Theilixu Village, alignment falling in Zoological Park and exorbitantly high rate of land compensation indicated by State Government.

Recruitment to Group A posts in railways

2319. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE:

DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recruitment rules for Group A posts in Jr. Time Scale in all organised services of Railways provide 50 per cent of vacancies to be filled by promotion from amongst Group B officers through UPSC;

(b) if so, the number of vacancies in Group A posts in the last four years and number of Group B officers promoted to Group A posts during this period;

(c) whether 50 per cent of vacancies were filled up by promotion of Group B officers;

(d) if not, the reasons for non-implementation of recruitment rules; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) There were 411 Group 'A'/Jr. Scale vacancies in eight organised services of Indian Railways under promotion quota corresponding to 412 vacancies under direct recruitment quota in each of the last four vacancy years, viz. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12. 1522 Group 'B' officers were promoted during this period.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Termination of Rockfort Express at Tiruchirapalli

2320. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rockfort Express, running between Chennai and Kumbakonam, is going to be terminated at Tiruchirappalli with effect from 29 August 2013;

(b) whether representations have been received by the Ministry from Members of Parliament and the travelling public to continue this service upto Kumbakonam; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Rockfort Express, running between Chennai and Kumbakonam, is going to be terminated at Tiruchirappalli with effect from 1st September 2013.

(b) Representations regarding trains operations are received at various level of Railway, a compendium of which is not maintained. Representation from the Hon'ble Member of Parliament has been received for running of Rockfort Express upto Kumbakonam.

(c) In the Metre Gauge (MG) era, Rockfort Express used to run between Chennai Egmore and Tiruchchirappalli. The service was extended to Kumbakonam to provide connectivity to Thanjavur/Kumbakonam as the direct Broad Gauge (BG)