

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import of spare parts, coaches etc. by Railways

573. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government imports railway spare parts, coaches, engines and other related materials;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the expenditure incurred on import of these items during each of the last three years;

(d) the estimated total expenditure likely to be incurred on import of the above items during the next three years; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for manufacture of above items indigenously and for achieving self-reliance in these areas and by when it would be achieved?

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

(b) Major items of import are rolling stock involving new technology not available in India and their spares, machines/equipments not available indigenously and items of regular consumption where indigenous sources are not able to meet the requirement of Railway either in quantity or quality. Import is resorted to in inescapable circumstances only.

(c) The expenditure incurred on import of Railway spare parts, coaches, engines and other related materials during each of the last 3 years is as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount
2009-10	Rs. 1303.46
2010-11	Rs. 1353.17
2011-12	Rs. 1288.64

(d) The total expenditure likely to be incurred on import during the next 3 years cannot be estimated as Railways resort to import in inescapable circumstances.

(e) Research Design and Standards Organisation/Production Units are entrusted with the responsibility of developing indigenous sources. Owing to these efforts approximately 96% of goods purchases on Indian Railways are indigenous.

Railway lines in NE States and Himalayan region

574. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps being taken by the Ministry to increase Railway's presence in the North-Eastern States and the Himalayan region;

(b) whether the Ministry has any concrete plans to add new railway lines in near future as according to the Twelfth Five Year Plan Document, Railways have added only 11,864 kms. of new lines since independence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) 13 new line projects have been taken up to increase railway network in N.E. Region. One new line project of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla has been taken up in Himalayan Region of Jammu and Kashmir. 3 new line projects in Himachal Pradesh and 1 new line project in Himalayan Region of Uttarakhand have also been taken up. On completion of these projects, railway network in Himalayan Region will be augmented by 1560.16 km.

Chennai-Bengaluru Double Decker Express train

575. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Chennai-Bengaluru Double Decker Express train;

(b) by when would it start operating; and

(c) how many commuters would be able to use this train during each trip?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) 22625/22626 Chennai-Bengaluru AC Double Decker Express has been announced in Railway Budget 2012-13. Generally, trains announced in Railway Budget are being introduced during the same financial year.