

(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.

- (c) Approximately 1320 passengers can travel per trip.

Chennai-Puducherry railway line

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

- (a) the status of work on East Coast Railway line from Chennai to Puducherry via Cuddalore;
- (b) the budgetary allocation for this project in the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has finalized the alignment for this line; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Work is in preliminary stage. Final location survey has been completed. Execution would be taken up after sufficient land is made available by the State Government of Tamil Nadu to Railways.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 1.43 crore has been incurred on this project upto March, 2012.

(c) and (d) In view of operational constraint in linking this line at Perungudi station/Chennai Suburban section, it has been decided to link Cuddalore-Puducherry-Mahabalipuram section of the project with Chengalpattu to provide rail link to/from Chennai.

Funding for railway projects

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

- (a) whether it is proposed to involve private funds in development of railway sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of railway projects proposed under PPP mode;
- (c) the action plan to increase funding for railway projects moving at snail's pace in Odisha under East Coast Railway; and
- (d) the time-frame within which all these ongoing projects would be completed and put into operation?