

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Uttarakhand	18275	19263	20187
20.	Chhattisgarh	55377	50163	47751
21.	Jharkhand	60465	61277	61957
TOTAL:		42,49,344	43,22,200	44,34,191

Railway operations in Uttarakhand

†253. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether operation of Railways in Uttarakhand are being carried out by various divisions/circles at present;

(b) if so, whether due to the presence of many divisions/circles, expansion of Railways is getting affected in the State;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any request/suggestion to include Uttarakhand in the Northern Railway;

(d) if so, the details of action taken regarding its inclusion in Northern Railway; and

(e) if no action is taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Railway operations in the State of Uttarakhand fall under Moradabad Division of Northern Railway and Izatnagar Division of North Eastern Railway.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Zones and Divisions on Indian Railways are not based on the State or District boundaries. The jurisdiction of a Zone/Division is decided on the basis of operational/administrative requirements, without any regional consider-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

ations, keeping in view the geographical contiguity of the divisions forming a zone; smooth movement of traffic operationally; with a view to provide better control and to improve the efficiency of the system. The suggestion to bring all the Railway lines in the State of Uttarakhand under Northern Railway, when examined in the light of the above, has not been found feasible.

Renewal of railway tracks

254. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways replace the old tracks in the railway network in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the norms laid down for this purpose;
- (c) the targets set and achieved for track renewal during the last three years, year-wise, zone-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to complete track renewal in the country?

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

(b) Track renewal is a continuous activity, which is undertaken as and when a stretch of track become due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual which are as under:

- (i) Incidence of rail fractures/failures
- (ii) Wear on rail
- (iii) Maintainability of track to prescribed standards
- (iv) Expected Service Life in terms of Gross Million Tonnes carried
- (v) Plan based renewals
- (c) Track renewal targets and achievement year-wise and zone-wise during last three years, are as under: