

powers and the contract conditions have been modified to bring efficiency in contract management.

Expansion of Railways in Uttarakhand

†1041. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has formulated any action plan for expansion of Railways in Uttarakhand in the ensuing years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the details of the policy to be adopted for the expansion of Railways in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) New line surveys are routinely taken up on requests received from State Government/elected representatives of the people and new line projects are also routinely sanctioned. This is a continuous process. No separate action plan has been devised for expansion of railway network in Uttarakhand. 3 new line projects falling partly/fully in Uttarakhand State viz. "Rishikesh-Karanprayag", "Deoband-Roorkee" and "Kiccha-Khatima" new line projects have been sanctioned.

Approval to projects announced by Government

1042. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after a project is announced by Government on floor of the House, feasibility study or survey is undertaken and cost if arrived at and after that it is sent to the Planning Commission for in-principle approval;

(b) how many projects were dropped after the feasibility study/survey during the last five years; and

(c) how many projects were sent to the Planning Commission in the last five years and how many of them were granted in- principle approval, the State-wise details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY) : (a) No, Sir. Feasibility study or survey to know the approximate alignment, cost and Rate of Return is carried out before sanction of the project.

(b) In the last five years *i.e.* during 2008-09 to 2012-13, 96 numbers of projects were shelved, after completion of feasibility study/survey.

(c) In the last five years *i.e.* during 2008-09 to 2012-13, 175 numbers of projects were sent to Planning Commission, out of which 47 numbers projects were granted 'in principle' approval. As State-wise details are not maintained, zone-wise details of total nos. of proposals sent to Planning Commission and against which the total number of approval obtained are given as below:

Sl.No.	Zonal Railway	Total number of proposals sent to Planning Commission in last 5 years	Total number of proposals for which approval obtained from Planning Commission in last 5 years
1	2	3	4
1.	Central	9	2
2.	East Coast	4	4
3.	East Central	2	1
4.	Easern	27	4
5.	North Central	5	2
6.	North Eastern	7	1
7.	Northeast Frontier	20	5
8.	Northern	27	3
9.	North Western	11	1
10.	South Central	18	4

1	2	3	4
11.	South East Central	8	5
12.	South Eastern	4	1
13.	Southern	9	2
14.	South Western	13	5
15.	West Central	2	1
16.	Western	9	6

Decision regarding fare hike

1043. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided not to hike fares or any other kind of surcharge for passengers till the new Government assumes office in 2014; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways have raised both passenger fares and freight charges under various heads to net additional revenue of about Rs.2,500 crore over the next months, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY): (a) Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalization of the passenger fare structures is an on-going process. Presently, there is no proposal for reviewing the fare structure.

(b) Recently, Fuel Adjustment Component (FAC)-linked tariff revision in passenger fares and freight rates has been done with effect from 07.10.2013 and 10.10.2013 respectively. The anticipated incremental earnings from this revision is expected around Rs. 1150 crore during the remaining period of the current financial year.

Survey for gauge conversion of railway line in Andhra Pradesh

1044. SHRI C.M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for gauge conversion of railway lines in Andhra Pradesh has been taken up by the Ministry; and