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-ongoing 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