

**Closing down of chola road railway crossing in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

1068. DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has closed down the Chola Road railway crossing in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh;

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

(c) whether Government is aware that the narrow underpass, provided as an alternative route, is unable to cater to the needs of the residents of this area and is causing a lot of inconvenience to the residents; and

(d) if so, the immediate steps taken by Government to re-open the crossing to ensure smooth flow of traffic at the crossing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Level Crossing (LC) No. 252A Bairagarh chord line and LC No. 252B on Bhopal-Bairagarh chord line (called Chhola road LCs) have been closed with effect from Feb 2013.

(b) These LCs were closed after construction of one Road Over Bridge (ROB) covering both level crossings and two subways (one at each level crossing) on cost sharing basis and as per consent given by State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Subways have been provided for pedestrians and light vehicular traffic and for heavy vehicles, ROB has been constructed as per existing policy.

(d) One ROB and two subways have already been constructed on cost sharing basis in lieu of these two level crossings. LCs have been closed as per consent given by State Govt. before the start of the work. Hence, as per policies in vogue, these LCs cannot be reopened. Moreover, LCs are potential safety hazards for both road and rail users more so for road users. Hence, demand for reopening of LCs is not desirable.

**Practice of travelling atop the trains**

1069. SHRI N.K. SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a common practice for railway passengers to travel atop the trains;