

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. It has been agreed between the Govt, of India and Japan in the Joint Statement of the two Prime Ministers signed on 29.04.2005 that the feasibility of a dedicated high axle load freight corridor project for Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah sectors of Indian Railways utilizing the Japanese STEP (Special Terms of Economic Partnership) YEN loan shall be examined. A proposal for carrying out a development study for the dedicated freight corridor project has since been posed to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on 07.07.2005.

(b) There is no offer of loan so far. However, normally under the STEP Yen loan scheme, 30% of the loan would be tied to procurement from Japan. The loan covers up to 85% of the total project cost with an interest rate of 0.4% per annum and repayment period of 40 years including 10 years grace period.

(c) Does not arise.

**Broad gauge conversion of Gandhinagar-Palanpur rail line**

2714. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when conversion of metre gauge to broad work has started between Gandhinagar and Palanpur in Western Railway;

(b) the stipulated period in which this work was to be completed;

(c) the other investing partners in this work; and

(d) how much amount is allocated for this work and how much has been spent by 31st October, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Gandhinagar and Palanpur are already connected by broad gauge line. The reference is, perhaps, to Gandhidham-Palanpur gauge conversion which was included in the Budget 1998-99.

(b) Palanpur-Samakhiali (248 Kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06 and balance Samakhiali-Gandhidham in 2006-07.

(c) The investing partners in this project are Government of Gujarat, Kandla Port Trust, Gujarat Adani Port Limited and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

(d) The total cost of the project is anticipated as Rs. 451.53 crore and a sum of Rs. 195.63 crore has been spent upto the end of October, 2005.

**Cyber cafes at major Stations**

2715. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Rail Tel proposes to set up cyber cafes in major stations; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Rail Tel has been authorised to plan cyber cafe, on franchisee basis at important stations only, in a phased manner.

(b) The names of 82 railways stations identified under the scheme are given in statement attached.

***Statement***

*List of 82 Stations where Cyber Cafes are proposed*

| SI.No. | Name of Stations |
|--------|------------------|
| 1.     | Howrah           |
| 2.     | Sealdah          |
| 3.     | Asansol          |
| 4.     | Patna            |
| 5.     | Gaya             |
| 6.     | Dhanbad          |
| 7.     | Mughalsarai      |
| 8.     | Bhubneswar       |
| 9.     | Cuttack          |
| 10.    | Puri             |
| 11.    | Vishakhpatham    |
| 12.    | Sambalpur        |
| 13.    | Guwahati         |
| 14.    | Kharagpur        |
| 15.    | Tata Nagar       |