

**Doubling and electrification of Ghaziabad-Meerut
railway line**

†3057. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the task of doubling and electrification of railway line between Ghaziabad and Meerut has been completed;
- (b) whether the number of passengers travelling by this train route has decreased;
- (c) if not, the reasons for new passenger trains not being introduced between New Delhi and Meerut;
- (d) by when is the operation of new passenger trains expected to commence between New Delhi and Meerut; and
- (e) the details of alternative arrangements for the increasing number of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Ghaziabad-Meerut rail line is already double lined. Electrification work of the section is in advance stage of completion.

(b) Yes, Sir. There has been a decrease in the number of passengers who travelled between Ghaziabad-Meerut-Ghaziabad sector during the period from April, 2013 to January, 2014 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

(c) to (e) At present, Delhi is well connected with Meerut. Recently, 22917/22918 Bandra (T)-Haridwar Express and 14521/14522 Delhi-Ambala Cantt. Express, announced in Railway Budget 2013-14 and in Parliament have been introduced *w.e.f.* 25.09.2013 and 14.09.2013 respectively. Besides, introduction of trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railway subject to operational feasibility, commercial viability, availability of resources etc.

Train fire accidents

3058. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons that trains, in recent months, are catching fire and killing number of people;
- (b) the details of each of the fire accident that took place in the last three years, year-wise and incident-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.