

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Railway Servants (Hours of Work and Period of Rest) Rules, 2005 framed under the provisions of Railways Act, 1989 have the approval of Ministry of Labour and Employment. Under Rule 3 of the said Rules, the Head of the Railway Administration is the competent authority to decide the duty hours of loco drivers.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. A High Power Committee constituted by Ministry of Railways to review the duty hours of loco drivers and safety related categories has submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee are being examined by the Railways.

Railway projects

3076. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments, including Government of Gujarat, have submitted request for development of railway linkages in the influence area of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon;

(c) by when the upgradation work of Ahmedabad-Botad-Bhavnagar is likely to start and the time-frame for its completion; and

(d) by when the doubling work of Viramgam-Samakhiyali-Gandhidham is likely to start and the time-frame for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways have received a request from Government of Gujarat for development of rail linkages in the influence area of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). These include 3 new line projects, 9 gauge conversion projects, 6 doubling projects and port connectivity projects. Out of these, 8 projects of gauge conversion and 1 project of doubling have already been completed.

Ahmedabad-Botad Gauge Conversion, doubling of Viramgam-Surendranagar and Viramgam-Samakhiyali have been sanctioned. Remaining proposals are presently not under consideration for sanction.

(c) Gauge Conversion of Ahmedabad-Botad has been included in the Budget 2012-13. Preliminary activities like preparation of plans, estimates, Final Location Survey etc. have been taken up. The targeted date for completion of the project has not yet been fixed. Botad-Bhavnagar section is already an existing broad gauge section.

(d) The work of doubling of Viramgam-Samakhiyali (182.23 Km.) has been included in the Budget 2011-12. On this Section, Viramgam-Sadla section (21 Km.) is targeted for completion by March, 2014. On Jatpipli-Sukhpur section (52.33 Km.), earthwork, bridge work, etc. are in different stages of progress also.

As regards, Samakhiyali-Gandhidham section, it is already an existing double broad gauge line section.

Introduction of new trains in Gujarat

3077. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have introduced new trains *via* various towns and cities of Gujarat, during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the status of commencing Rajya Rani Express from Rajkot, new trains for Okha-Dwarka-Nathdwara and Rajkot-Nizamuddin;

(c) the status of starting train numbers 14811/14812 from Delhi Sarai Rohilla to Sikar as announced in this year's budget;

(d) whether Railways also propose to increase the frequency of existing trains passing through various cities/towns of Gujarat; and

(e) if so, details of such trains during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Indian Railways do not operate trains on State-wise basis as railway network cuts across State boundaries. Details of number of trains introduced serving the stations in the State of Gujarat during the last three years are as under:

Year	Number of trains (in single)
2011-12	36
2012-13	30
2013-14	38

In the Railway Budget 2013-14, introduction of 19575/19576 Okha-Nathdwara Express and 19579/19580 Rajkot-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Express has been announced and the same have since been introduced *w.e.f.* 24.09.2013 and 27.01.2014 respectively. However, at present, there is no proposal for introduction of Rajya Rani Express from Rajkot.