

projects and severe resource crunch, this Ministry is giving priority to projects which are given land free of cost and 50% of the cost of projects are shared by the States. The offer of State Government of Odisha to share 50% of the cost of project and remaining land free of cost has been taken up for examination. Phase-I (Khurda Road-Begunia) of the project is targeted for completion by 31.03.2014.

Survey for railway line

†3081. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether initial and updated survey has been conducted for laying a new railway line between Ujjain city of Madhya Pradesh to Jhalawar Road, Jhalawar district of Rajasthan *via* Agar Malwa under Western Railway, Ratlam Division and West Central Railway Division, Kota;

(b) if so, the details of the survey conducted and whether Railways are taking any action thereon;

(c) whether Railways are considering to sanction laying of new railway line from Ujjain to Jhalawar Road *via* Agar Malwa, Susner and Soyat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) An updating survey from Ujjain-Ramganjmandi *via* Agar Malwa, Susner and Jhalawar Road (190 km.) has been taken up.

Extending rail connectivity

3082. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has acceded to the public demand that the Christian shrine of Velankanni, the Islamic dargah at Nagore and the Hindu Navagraha temples of Thanjavur district and Karaikal be linked by extending the rail connection from Nagore through Thirunallar to Tharangambadi and Mayiladuturai; and

(b) whether such extended rail connectivity could be called the Secular Express?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) All the four stations *viz.* Velankanni, Nagore, Thanjavur and Karaikal are located on broad gauge route. Survey for railway line between Karaikal and Mayiladuturai *via* Thirunallar and Tharangambadi has been conducted but the project has not yet sanctioned.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.