

via Rourkela, (ii) 18516/18515 Visakhapatnam-Tatanagar (weekly) via Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and (iii) 18407/18408 Puri-Sai Nagar Shirdi Express (weekly) via Manmad announced in Parliament and Railway Budget 2013-14 have been introduced.

#### **Introduction of Duronto Express trains**

3090. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the Ministry would consider the proposal of State Government of Odisha for introduction of Duronto Express trains between Puri-Mumbai, Puri-Jaipur/Jodhpur, Bhubaneswar-Puri, Bhubaneswar-Bengaluru and Puri-Surat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): Introduction of new train service including Duronto Express trains is an ongoing process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc. However, at present, there is no proposal for introduction of Duronto Express between Puri-Mumbai, Puri-Jaipur/Jodhpur, Bhubaneswar-Puri, Bhubaneswar-Bengaluru and Puri-Surat.

#### **Rail Tariff Authority**

†3091. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved setting up of Rail Tariff Authority which will give suggestion on train fare, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether suggestions of this Authority would be binding on Railway Board or it will depend on the Railway Board what to accept and what not;
- (c) if so, whether it would be a suggestive regulator instead of an empowered one; and
- (d) if so, the justification of its establishment and whether it would not further increase the expenditure, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved setting up of Rail Tariff Authority as an interim body who will advise the Ministry of Railways on all matters related to fixation of tariffs. A Government resolution to this effect has been issued on 27.01.2014.

(b) The recommendation shall ordinarily be accepted by the Central Government (Ministry of Railways). However, if at any time the Central Government is of the opinion that circumstances exist, which render it necessary to revise the tariff proposed

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by the Rail Tariff Authority, the Central Government may, within a specified time period, send a reasoned note to the Rail Tariff Authority for reconsideration.

(c) and (d) Tariff/Fare fixation on Indian Railway has all along been an internal, in-house exercise. The Rail Tariff Authority implies a systemic shift, which would enable a segregation of the multiple roles and responsibilities Railways are and would be required to discharge in the long run; this would, in turn, enhance Indian Railway's long-term financial viability and capabilities to address issues holistically and efficiently.

#### **Doubling of railway track between Chauri Chaura-Deoria**

†3092. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the work currently underway for doubling of railway tracks between Chauri Chaura-Deoria railway stations under North-Eastern Railway;

(b) by when the doubling work of railway tracks would be completed along with the time-frame fixed for starting operation of trains on these lines; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) The work of doubling of Chauri Chaura-Deoria section is in advanced stage of completion. On this section, Deoria-Baitalpur section is likely to be completed by March, 2014 and Baitalpur-Chauri Chaura section is being planned to be completed by May, 2014. The train services on this section will start once the work of doubling of this section is completed and authorization of Commissioner of Railway Safety obtained.

#### **Targets under ten-year Railway Safety Plan**

†3093. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets under ten-year Railway Safety Plan have been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railways have accepted the recommendations of High Level Safety Review Committee/Khanna Committee, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether as per the recommendations of Khanna Committee, any separate forum has been provided to All India Railway Engineers Federation (AIREF) so as to enable them to convey their interests/complaints; and

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