

(iii) Sahibganj-Pirpainti (23 km): Track linking completed and finishing works have been taken up.

(iv) Pirpainti-Bhagalpur (59 km): Earthwork and bridge works have been taken up.

Merger of Visakhapatnam division with South Central Railway

2595. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that assurance has been given to Seemandhara that their demand to merge Visakhapatnam division with South Central Railway or to create a new Visakhapatnam zone will be considered favourably;

(b) if so, whether its implications for East Coast Railway have been examined; and

(c) whether if such demand is accepted in violation of the principles of jurisdiction for zones followed by Railways so far, will Government consider the demand of Odisha for merger of areas of Odisha falling within South Eastern Railway and /or other such areas into the East Coast railway zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No assurance has been given to Seemandhara for the merger of Visakhapatnam division with South Central Railway or to create a new Visakhapatnam zone. However, a committee of Senior Officers from Railways has been constituted to examine, *inter-alia*, the issue of a new railway zone in the successor State of Andhra Pradesh, in terms of item no 8 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014. The Terms of Reference of the Committee include holding of discussions with all concerned, including the State Government officials, before giving their recommendations. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Provision of ramps and lifts at railway stations in Delhi

2596. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no provision of ramps and lifts at Nizamuddin, New Delhi and Old Delhi railway stations for use by elderly, infirm and differently-abled people;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for wheeling through such persons by long routes meant for transportation of goods; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Ramps have been provided from entry to the stations at Nizamuddin, New Delhi and Old Delhi railway stations for use by elderly, infirm and differently-abled people. However, ramp at Nizamuddin station has been provided from main entry