

Double line already exists between Guwahati and Digaru (44.13 km) on Guwahati-Dibrugarh section. Further, a survey for doubling from Digaru to Dibrugarh (520 km) has been completed out of which work of doubling for section from Luming to Hojai (44.92 km) has been sanctioned and taken up.

Trials of fixing fire alarms in trains

1204. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the trials of fixing fire alarms in trains are being conducted, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether at present trials are only being conducted in AC trains/coaches, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the trials would be conducted in non-AC coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. A pilot project for field trial with Automatic Fire and Smoke Detection System has been taken up in one rake of New Delhi- Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express. Besides, one LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) rake in New Delhi -Jammu Tawi Rajdhani and one rake of LHB AC Double Decker coaches running between Kachiguda-Tirupati-Guntur have also been provided with such a system. Technical specification has been revised for extended field trial. In the revised specification, Air brake system has been interfaced with Fire and Smoke Detection System for automatic application of brakes in trains in emergency situations owing to fire.

(b) Yes, Sir. Presently, trials are being conducted only in Air Conditioned (AC) trains as the present design of Automatic Fire and Smoke Detection System is suitable for AC coaches which have regulated circulation of ambient air inside coaches.

(c) Research Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO) has developed a tentative technical specification for trial of Automatic Fire and Smoke Detection System suitable for non-AC coaches. There are no readily available designs suitable for non-AC coaches. Therefore, definite timelines regarding conduct of trial are not feasible.

Cost cutting measures in Railways

1205. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to formulate any new plan to cut the spending on various unwanted and avoidable expenditure in railway infrastructure and its protection, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Railways have made any list of expenditure which could be reduced; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to adopt cost cutting measures in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Austerity and economy measures are regularly adopted on Railways to ensure saving in expenditure. Further, guidelines of Ministry of Finance on expenditure management and austerity are also followed by Railways. The various measures taken by Railways *inter-alia* include -

Economy and Expenditure Control Measures:

- Austerity and economy measures in areas such as hospitality, publicity, advertisement, inaugural ceremonies, seminars and workshops, contingent and office expenses etc.
- Tight control over expenditure in areas such as contractual payment, overtime allowance, purchase of material etc.
- Controlling the growth of non-Plan expenditure.

Cost Cutting Measures:

- Better asset utilisation.
- Improvement in inventory management.
- Optimising the fuel consumption.
- Improving staff productivity by better man-power planning.
- Prioritisation of expenditure on works for better use of available resources.

Pending railway projects

1206. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway projects pending in the country and since when they have been pending;

(b) the cost overrun of these Railway projects;

(c) how many such projects are pending in Maharashtra, the details thereof; and