

- (d) Does not arise.

**Doubling of Madurai-Kanyakumari railway line**

1974. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sanction has not been accorded for doubling of railway line between Madurai-Kanyakumari section of Chennai-Kanyakumari trunk route so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Survey for doubling of Madurai-Kanyakumari (245 Km) section has been completed. As per survey report, the cost of the project has been assessed as ₹ 1926 crore with a Rate of Return of 8%, which is well below the threshold limit of remunerativeness i.e. 14%.

**Condition of coaches in trains towards Guwahati**

1975. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old coaches with poor condition are used in all trains including Rajdhani Express bound towards Guwahati, Assam the hub of North-east tourism;

(b) if so, the details of passenger coaches used in such trains; and

(c) the steps Railways have taken for improvement of quality of food/meals supplied in all trains including Rajdhani Express?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken to improve the quality of catering services are as follows:

- Regular, surprise and periodical inspections of quality and hygiene of food/meals supplied on trains.

- Setting up a Catering Services Monitoring Cell with a toll free number 1800-111-321 at national level.
- Pilot project for Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) feedback of passengers regarding catering services.
- Introduction of pre-cooked (ready to eat) meal in phased manner.
- Third party audit of quality and mandatory ISO (Indian Standards Organization) certification of Base Kitchens has been prescribed.

#### **Bogibeel rail cum road bridge**

1976. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of present status of construction of Bogibeel rail cum road bridge over Brahmaputra;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Bogibeel rail project is unduly delayed and the cost of the project has escalated several fold;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge over river Brahmaputra was sanctioned in 1997-98. Latest anticipated cost of the project is ₹ 4996 crore and an expenditure of ₹ 3041 crore has been incurred upto March, 2014. An outlay of ₹ 600 crore has been provided for the year 2014-15.

Physical works of both North and South guide bunds, 44 km long rail link from Chaulkhowa-Moranhat, 14 km long north bank rail link and 8 km long south bank rail link have been completed. In main bridge, 36 out of 42 well foundations and 28 out of 40 piers have been completed. 2 out of 41 girders have been launched.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The project has been delayed due to paucity of funds and is now targeted for completion by March, 2017.

#### **Railway projects in Karnataka under PPP**

1977. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: