

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In December, 2012, Ministry of Railways had announced a participative policy with five models of private participation to strengthen capacity augmentation and building rail connectivity projects.

Under the policy, financial commitments of ₹ 10,000 crores have been received for 17 projects. Model Concession Agreements have been prepared for three participative models *i.e.* Non-Government Private line model, Joint Venture model and Build Operate Transfer (BOT) model.

New express trains between New Delhi and Itanagar

1522. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new express trains were announced between New Delhi and Itanagar *via* Rangia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of trains announced *via* Rangia and Tangla; and

(c) whether Tangla railway station is considered for stoppage being a major business hub, a tea garden belt and military transit destination, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The trains announced in Railway Budget 2014-15 serving Naharlagun (Itanagar) and other trains *via* Rangia and Tangla are as under:-

- (i) 22411/22412 New Delhi-Naharlagun AC Express (Weekly)
- (ii) 15617/15618 Guwahati-Naharlagun Intercity Express (Daily)
- (iii) 15613/15614 Guwahati-Murkongselek Intercity Express (Daily)
- (iv) 55429/55430 Rangia-Rangapara North Passenger (Daily)

(c) All the above announced trains have scheduled stoppage at Tangla station except 22411/22412 New Delhi-Naharlagun AC Express (weekly) which is proposed to have only 15 scheduled enroute stoppages.

New passenger trains

1523. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a demand to introduce a new passenger train between Mettupalayam and Pollachi and Mettupalayam to Bengaluru;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there has been a demand for running an additional passenger train between Mettupalayam and Coimbatore; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by railways on the above said demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Presently, introduction of new passenger train service between Mettupalayam-Pollachi and Mettupalayam-Bangalore as well as running an additional passenger train between Mettupalayam and Coimbatore is not feasible due to operational and resource constraints including terminal constraints and lack of spare maintenance facility at Mettupalayam and Coimbatore.

Restoration of railway services in areas affected by cyclone Hudhud

1524. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has initiated any action plan for restoration of railway services to Visakhapatnam and other areas affected by the cyclone Hudhud;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the loss occurred due to this cyclone and the precautionary steps adopted for the safety and security of railway assets along with the safety of railway passengers, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Hudhud, a severe cyclone hit north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh in October, 2014. An important section of the railway line along the eastern coast of India, spread over two Zonal Railway systems *i.e.* South Central Railway (SCR) and East Coast Railway (BCOR) runs through these districts connecting two major cities of Andhra Pradesh-Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. Hudhud struck Waltair division at 11:30 hours of 12th October, 2014 with a wind speed of upto 215 kilometre per hour and caused widespread devastation completely paralyzing Railway operations.

On ECOR, coaching and freight train operations were restored at 20:35 hours on 14th October, 2014. However, due to washing away of 100 metre track and one bridge girder, traffic of Kotavalsa-Koraput section could be restored only on 18th November, 2014. On SCR, train operations were normalized between Regupalem-Narsingapalli