

- (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

section (both Up and Down lines) and on DN line between Narsingapalli-Bayyavaram section at 14:40 hours on 14th October 2014. The traffic on Narsingapalli-Bayyavaram UP line could be restored on 17:05 hours on 15th October, 2014.

As a precautionary measure, Railways cancelled 147 Mail/Express trains and 222 passenger services in anticipation of the cyclone and during the cyclone period. 35 Mail/Express trains were short terminated and 117 Mail/Express trains were diverted *via* routes that were not affected by the cyclone.

Financial losses (in rupees) incurred due to Hudhud is given in the table below:

Railway	Losses to freight loading	Coaching losses (in ₹)	Engineering assets loss (in ₹)	S and T assets loss (in ₹)
ECOR	89.82 crores	6.25 crores	60 crores	6,84,72,431
SCR	27.66 crores	6.25 crores		

(c) Two special trains were run between Visakhapatnam to Howrah and Bhubaneswar to Visakhapatnam to clear the stranded passengers.

Round the clock emergency controls were set up at divisional and Headquarters level of the concerned Zonal Railways. The two Zonal Railways remained constantly in touch with the State Government agencies and the Disaster Management Commission of Andhra Pradesh.

All other necessary precautionary steps were taken to ensure safety of passengers and Railway assets as per laid down guidelines.

Glass domed coaches

1525. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to offer glass domed coaches with windows and roofs made of special shatter resistant glass to provide an all-round view to the travellers on some scenic tourist centric routes; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the scheme will also be introduced on Mettupalayam-Ooty route in Tamil Nadu; if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.