

depot as per laid down maintenance schedules. Fire retardant materials for coaching stock are being procured as per laid down quality in the relevant applicable technical specification.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During 2013-14, 07 consequential fire accidents took place. Out of these, 01 accident each took place in North Central Railway, Northern Railway, East Central Railway, Northeast Frontier Railway, South Western Railway, Central Railway and Western Railway.

Electrification of Mettupalayam—Coimbatore segment

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

(a) whether it is a fact that electrification work on Mettupalayam-Coimbatore segment is not progressing at the desired level;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with this pace of work it will take many more months to complete the work;

(c) whether the reasons for slow progress of the work is due to low allocation of fund; and

(d) if so, whether Railways are considering to provide more funds for the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Electrification of Coimbatore North – Mettupalayam has been included in Railway Budget 2012-13 and sanctioned at a cost of ₹ 26.08 Crore. Depending upon the overall availability of resources, the targets for commissioning of railway electrification projects are fixed on yearly basis.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. For the current year, ₹13.00 Crore have been allocated for the work, which is adequate to meet the requirement.

Contract workers in IRCTC

751. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) are deploying contract workers for performing operations of e-ticket system;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the contract workers are being paid a meagre salary; and

(c) if so, the response of Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Railway accidents due to drivers' mistakes

752. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether since April, 2011, 240 accidents have taken place across the railway network due to drivers jumping signals by mistake, with errant drivers citing lack of rest and overwork as the reason behind their lapse;

(b) whether during probe, Railways have found that the drivers involved worked only for six hours or less while 65 per cent had availed complete headquarter rest; and

(c) whether the probe revealed that in 7 out of 10 accidents, drivers had worked for less than six hours and 84 per cent were rated best in terms of ability and experience?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) During the last three years *i.e.*, 2011-12 to 2013-14 and the current year 2014 (upto August), altogether 239 incidents of Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD) took place on Indian Railways by the Loco Pilots.

(b) Analysis reveals that in about 70% incidents of SPAD, Loco Pilots had completed their duty upto six hours or less. Further, in about 65% incidents of SPAD, Loco Pilots had availed proper 'Headquarters' rest and in the remaining incidents, the Loco Pilots had availed 'Out Station' rest according to stipulated rest norms.

(c) Yes, Sir. Analysis of incidents of SPAD during 2013-14 and 2014-15 (upto August, 2014) revealed that in about 7 out of 10 accidents of SPAD, Loco Pilots had worked for six hours or less. Further, in about 84% incidents of SPAD, Loco Pilots had Safety grading of either 'A' and 'B'.

Railway network in border areas

†753. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously considering to lay network of railway lines in border areas of North-Eastern States;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.