

paid in a year depends upon the number of cases finalized and decreed by the Railway Claims Tribunal or court of law in a particular year irrespective of the year to which the accidents pertain to.

(c) Policing on Railways is a State Subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases and their investigation in Railway premises as well as on running trains including creation of secure environment for women passengers are, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Governments, which they discharge through Government Railway Police (GRPs). However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) supplements the efforts of Government Railway Police by deploying its staff for escorting of important trains in affected areas and access control duties at important and sensitive stations.

Following steps are being taken by the Railways to ensure security of passengers:

- (i) On vulnerable and identified routes/sections, 1300 trains (on an average) are escorted by Railway Protection Force daily, in addition to 2200 trains escorted by Government Railway Police of different States daily.
- (ii) All the ladies special trains running in Metropolitan cities are being escorted by lady RPF constables.
- (iii) The ladies compartments in local trains are being escorted by RPF and GRP during peak/non-peak hours. Staff deployment is made during late night and early morning local trains to ensure proper security to the lady passengers.
- (iv) An integrated Security System consisting of electronic surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, access control, Anti-sabotage checks has been finalized to strengthen surveillance mechanism over 202 sensitive Railway stations.
- (v) An All India Security Helpline '1800-111-322' has been operational at Railway Board to enable passengers to seek security related assistance round the clock.
- (vi) To create a more effective security mechanism over Indian Railways, a proposal for amendment in the Railway Protection Force Act, has been moved by the Ministry of Railways with the approval of the Ministry of Law and Justice and Home Affairs. This will empower the RPF to deal with serious crimes in passenger areas.

Transferring a division out of East Coast Railway zone

762. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is proposed to transfer a railway division from East Coast Railway zone to some other railway zone in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there have been protests against this move from the people of Odisha, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is proposed to revert back the said move, if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Do not arise.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of answer given in (a) above.

Status of Tanakpur-Ghat-Bageshwar railway line

†763. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the status of laying of Tanakpur-Ghat-Bageshwar railway line, the details thereof;

(b) whether there is a possibility of laying of this railway line in future; and

(c) if not, the reasons blocking/can block the laying of this railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Survey for construction of new line from Tanakpur-Ghat-Bageshwar (155 km) in Uttarakhand has been completed. As per survey report, the cost has been assessed as ₹ 2791.00 crore with negative rate of return of 1.16%. The project could not be taken forward for execution due to un-remunerative nature, huge throwforward of ongoing projects and overall limited availability of funds.

Gauge conversion

†764. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time when decision was taken to convert Bareilly-Pilibhit-Khatima-Tanakpur railway line into broad gauge;

(b) whether the conversion of above line into broad gauge has been completed;

(c) if not, the details of efforts made so far to clear the obstacles; and

(d) the time by when this work would be completed?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.