

Schemes for railway expansion in Uttarakhand

†3109. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes for railway expansion in Uttarakhand and the details of their cost and the timeframe for their completion,

(b) whether, in view of the fact that the old railway station of Dehradun is burdened beyond its capacity, there is any proposal for its expansion or an additional/alternate railway station in Dehradun to reduce the pressure from the old Dehradun railway station and

(c) if so, the details of its cost and its completion schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present, there are 4 new line, 2 gauge conversion and 1 doubling ongoing projects falling fully/partly in the State of Uttarakhand covering a length of 894 km. The anticipated cost of these projects is ₹ 7031 crore. Till March, 2014, an expenditure of ₹ 1803 crore has already been incurred on these projects. An outlay of ₹ 78 crore has been provided for these projects for the year 2014-15. Target date for completion of these projects has not been fixed, due to huge throwforward of ongoing projects and limited overall availability of funds.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal for an additional railway station at Dehradun. However, to ease the terminal capacity of Dehradun station presently constrained by 13 coaches length platform, the work of extension of platform to accommodate 18 coaches has been sanctioned. Route Relay Interlocking (RRI) building has been completed. Civil works have been taken up. No target date for completion of the work has been fixed.

Increasing frequency of trains running towards South India

†3110. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the number of passengers travelling by trains in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware that the booking status on the trains running from Jodhpur, Bikaner to South India shows no room within fifteen minutes of opening of booking, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.