

Reorganisation Act, 2014, and also as was assured by the then Prime Minister on the floor of Rajya Sabha on 20th February, 2014 during passage of the Bill; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) A committee of Senior Officers from Railways has been constituted to examine the point nos. 8, 10 and 11 of Schedule 13 (Infrastructure) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, pertaining to the Indian Railways. Before taking a decision on the recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry has asked the Committee to consult the various Stake holders including the Members of Parliament, State Governments, etc.

Privatization and modernization of passenger services

3140. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister while flagging off first passenger train from Meghalaya to Assam has announced for privatization and modernization of passenger services at railway stations better than airports as most travellers by rail are poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof and response of Government thereto along with the details of stations identified in first phase;

(c) whether privatized and modernized shopping outlets, luxury hotels and restaurant would be within reach of the poor people; and

(d) if so, how Government would provide these services to poor passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Prime Minister spoke on the lines of modernisation of some railway platforms and privatisation with a view to generate income and enhance services at railway stations. He further said that railway platforms should be better than airports in view of the fact that it was used by the very poor amongst others.

(b) to (d) It was announced in Railway Budget 2014-15, to develop at least 10 major stations of Metro Cities and important junctions to international standards on the lines of newly developed airports. Six stations, viz., Habibganj (Bhopal), Chandigarh, Bijwasan (New Delhi), Shivaji Nagar (Pune), Anand Vihar (Delhi) and Surat are entrusted to Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. (IRSDC). Gandhinagar station

has also been taken up by Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA). Two stations, viz. Baiyyappanahalli (Bengaluru) and Bhubaneswar/New Bhubaneswar are identified for undertaking prefeasibility studies by the Chinese Railways at their cost under a Memorandum of Understanding dated 18.9.2014. The development is envisaged at no cost to Railways by leveraging land and air space in and around the stations. Train operations would remain with the Railways and only identified services would be provided and managed by private agencies. Moreover, while the stations are planned to be equipped with modern facilities and amenities, these would cater to all classes of passengers.

**Doubling of Allahabad-Varanasi and Varanasi-Chhapra
railway section**

3141. SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has sanctioned the doubling of Allahabad-Varanasi and Varanasi-Chhapra railway sections recently, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether survey for the doubling of above sections has been completed, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, by when survey would be completed; and
- (d) by when, the above rail sections would be double laned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table (*See below*)

Statement

- (a) to (d) 1. Allahabad and Varanasi are connected through two routes viz. Allahabad-Varanasi *via* Jhansi and Vindhyachal and *via* Phaphamau. Janghai, Bhadoi and Lohta. The position of doubling projects on these routes is as under:
- (i) Allahabad-Varanasi route *via* Jhansi and Vindhyachal - Survey for doubling has been taken up.
 - (ii) Allahabad-Varanasi route *via* Phaphamau. Janghai, Bhadoi and Lohta-Doubling on Allahabad-Phaphamau and Janghai-Bhadoi- Lohta section has been sanctioned and execution has been taken up. Survey for doubling in remaining sections has been taken up.