

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.

2. Varanasi-Chhapra:

- (i) Varanasi- Aurnihar section (35 km.): Sanctioned as a part of Manduadih-Aurnihar (39 km) doubling project and execution taken up.
- (ii) Aurnihar-Gazipur (40 km): Sanctioned in the Railway Budget 2014-15. Final Location Survey completed and detailed estimate prepared.
- (iii) Gazipur- Ballia (29 km): Survey has been taken up.
- (iv) Ballia-Chhapra (65 km): Sanctioned and execution taken up.

Time-frame for completion of sanctioned projects and surveys cannot be fixed due to large shelf on ongoing projects and limited availability of funds.

Journey by railway saloon

3142. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of officials entitled for performing journey by railway saloon along with the purpose of journey which has been allowed for entitlement of railway saloon by officials and Ministers, as per rule;
- (b) whether some officials and Minister/Minister of State, Railways have performed journeys during current year for unofficial purpose;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, official-wise and Minister-wise;
- (d) whether Prime Minister had sought details of unofficial journeys by railway officials and MoS, Railways and has directed them to deposit the fare of unofficial/unauthorized journey by saloon; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, official-wise, Minister-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Railway Minister/Minister of State and Railway officers are entitled to undertake journeys in railway inspection carriages/saloon for official purposes.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.