

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.