

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to extend 12211/12212 Muzaffarpur-Anand Vihar (T) Garib Rath Express to Sitamarhi and increase in its frequency from weekly to four days in a week owing to operational and resource constraints.

(e) Representations including from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament have been received in this regard.

Replacement of old and outdated tracks

2696. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail tracks are old and outdated and these tracks cause many serious railway accidents and also result in speed restrictions;

(b) if so, the steps taken to replace outdated and old tracks;

(c) whether the rolling stock technology is absolutely outmoded and this has made railways incapable of coping with increasing transport demands and of raising and improving the traffic volume and flows at lower per unit cost of operation;

(d) if so, steps taken to upgrade rolling stock technology; and

(e) the details of railway accidents occurred during the last three years and how many passengers were killed therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Railway Tracks are changed as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis *i.e.* on the basis of traffic carried over the track and physical condition of track etc. except Meter Gauge (MG) track which are due for Gauge conversion. In case any stretch of track is not renewed in time due to various reasons including scarcity of funds, materials etc., suitable speed restriction is imposed to ensure safe running of trains.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Indian Railways is using the state-of-the-art technology in transportation. Modernization and technical upgradation on the Railways is an ongoing process. Replacement of locomotives, coaches and wagons is a continuous process based on age-cum-condition in Railways under codal life provisions.

(e) The number of consequential train accidents (excluding incidents at unmanned level crossings caused due to negligence of road vehicle users) during last three years and loss of lives of passengers involved therein, is as under:

Year	Number of Accidents	Passengers killed
2011-12	77	100
2012-13	69	60
2013-14	71	42

New rail line proposal from undivided Andhra Pradesh

2697. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the undivided Andhra Pradesh had submitted a proposal for laying a new railway line by giving land, free of cost, between Pandurangapatnama and Bhadrachalam;

(b) if so, when was the request received; and

(c) the action taken by Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways had requested Government of Andhra Pradesh to share 50% cost of the project and to provide land free of cost. State Government vide their letter dated 11.06.2008 had agreed to provide land free of cost and getting the earth work in formation done under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana.

In view of the State Government not agreeing to share 50% of cost of the project and also due to unremunerative nature of the project and large throw forward of ongoing New Line projects and competing demands, the project could not be taken forward.

Royal Rajasthan on Wheels

†2698. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Royal Rajasthan on Wheels has failed to attract tourists;

(b) the number of tourists who enjoyed the journey by the said train during the last one year;

(c) whether steps are being taken by Government to make the train more popular, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.