

Roll on/Roll off model for freight corridors

1497. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government proposes to include Roll on/Roll off (RO-RO) model in Western, Eastern or other proposed dedicated freight corridors;
- (b) whether there has been a decrease in quantum of freight carried by Railways in the last decade; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to reverse the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Eastern and Western dedicated freight corridors are designed to handle Roll on/Roll off (RO-RO) type of movement.

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

Approved Railway lines in Sonpur and Samastipur divisions

†1498. SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of railway lines approved in Sonpur and Samastipur divisions under Hajipur zone, and the time-frame fixed for completion of the same; and
- (b) whether the work on these projects are stalled due to non allocation of funds, if so, by when the funds would be allocated for getting these projects completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA) : (a) and (b) 30 railway projects comprising 14 New Lines, 4 Gauge Conversions and 12 Doublings falling in Sonpur and Samastipur divisions of East Central Railway/ Hajipur Zone have been taken up since 1996-97. Out of these 9 Doublings and 1 New Line projects have been completed and remaining projects are at different stages of progress.

Non-availability of adequate funds has hampered most of the above mentioned railway projects. Apart from fund constraints, projects also got delayed due to factors like land acquisition, forestry clearances, law and order problems etc. which are beyond control of Railways. Allocation of funds to various projects is done on year to year basis as per the Railway Budget passed by Parliament.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.