

(c) whether it is also proposed to deploy police personnel in the local trains, especially in the country-side to prevent eve-teasing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Helpline has been made functional through Security Control Rooms of Railway Protection Force (RPF) to provide round the clock security related assistance to passengers during their journey over Railways. This Helpline is functioning through a three digit No. 182 (toll free) allotted by the Department of Telecommunications.

(b) Operationalisation of the Helpline has helped in reducing the reaction and response time in facilitating passenger security. It is pertinent to mention that prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the States, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP). As such, complaints received through Security Helpline are forwarded to the GRP concerned for registration and investigation.

(c) and (d) At present, about 1300 trains are escorted by the RPF in addition to 2200 trains escorted by the GRPs of different States on an average daily. Some of the local trains which have been identified as prone to crime are escorted by GRP/RPF. Special women squads of RPF like 'Sakthi Padai', 'Bhairvi', 'Shakti Mahila Teams' have also been formed by zonal Railways for safety and security of women passengers in suburban sections.

Upgradation of Nuapada railway station

2221. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nuapada Railway Station was upgraded to Category 'B' for being a link to three important tourism places of Western Odisha and also being the headquarter of Nuapada district which is infested with maoist activities;

(b) if so, whether minimum passenger facilities for a grade 'B' railway station have been provided; and

(c) by when the Puri-Surat Super Fast Express and Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Samata Express, which provide direct connectivity for passengers of this region to Ahmedabad and Delhi will have stoppage at the Nuapada Railway Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Nawapara Road railway station in Western Odisha has been upgraded to 'B' category already.

(b) Minimum essential passenger amenities are available at Nawapara Road railway station. Further, upgradation/augmentation of passenger amenities is an ongoing process.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to provide stoppage of 22827/22828 Puri-Surat Express and 12807/12808 Visakhapatnam-H. Nizamuddin Samta Express at Nawapara Road due to operational and resource constraints.

Survey for Bilaspur-Mandi-Leh railway line project

2222. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for proposed Bilaspur-Mandi-Leh railway line project has been completed, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the current status of the project; and

(c) by when the construction work of Bilaspur-Mandi-Leh railway line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The new line project of Bilaspur-Mandi-Leh has been identified by Ministry of Defence as a strategic line. Ministry of Railways has requested Ministry of Defence to convey approval to carry out Final Location Survey at a cost of ₹ 157.72 crores and provide the necessary funds. This project has not been sanctioned.

(c) The time of implementation cannot be ascertained till completion of Final Location Survey and detailed geotechnical studies as this project passes through very difficult terrains of young Himalayas.

Investment of more funds for railway projects

2223. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is keen in investing more funds for development of railway projects based on their potentiality, necessity and revenue generation;