

(b) The overall average occupancy of trains running between Jodhpur and Chennai and *vice versa* during Financial Year 2014-15 and during the period from April, 2015 to June, 2015, is more than 100%. However, at present, there is no proposal to increase the frequency of these services, due to operational and resource constraints including terminal constraints at Chennai.

Kalaburagi-Bidar railway line project

633. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Kalaburagi-Bidar railway line will be completed and trains will run to meet the need of the area; and

(b) by when Kalaburagi (Gulbarga) Railway Division will begin its work from Kalaburagi (Gulbarga) so as to meet the local needs of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Gulbarga-Bidar (140 Km.) New line project was taken up at an anticipated cost of ₹ 770 crore. Target for completion has not been fixed due to large shelf of ongoing projects and limited overall availability of funds for new line projects and the work on this project has been taken up in phases. In the first phase Khanapur (Bidar)-Homnabad (38 Km.) has been commissioned and passenger trains are running in this section. In balance portion, track linking has been completed for 73 Kms. length and earth work and bridge work has been taken up in the remaining 29 Km. length.

(b) For creation of new division at Gulbarga, action has already been initiated by the Ministry of Railways. However, it is difficult to set any time frame for making this division operational.

Easing pressure from Dehradun railway station

634. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's plans to reduce the pressure on Dehradun railway station;

(b) whether any plans/survey is going on to link Vikasnagar-Chakrata with Dehradun-Delhi railway lines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (b) and (c) A survey from Dehradun-Kalsi *via* Vikasnagar new line (47 km) was conducted in 2009-10. The cost of the project was assessed as ₹ 676.20 crore with ROR of (-) 4.08%. The project report was sent to Planning

Commission seeking their in-principle approval. However, Planning Commission did not agree to the proposal.

Subsequently, on a request from State Government to assess the viability of the part section *i.e.* Dehradun-Vikasnagar (34 km), an updating survey was conducted in 2012-13 and the Cost and ROR of this part section was assessed as ₹ 628.4 crore. and (-) 2.60% respectively. However, the project proposal could not be taken forward in view of its un-remunerative nature and Railway presently having huge throwforward of ongoing sanctioned works.

(a) To reduce pressure on Dehradun railway station, facilities for running of 18 coach trains have been sanctioned in Dehradun-Haridwar section.

However, survey for a new line linking Dehradun to Purola *via* Vikasnagar, Kalsi and Chakrata (75 km) has also been taken up.

Allocation of sufficient funds for various projects

635. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have not allocated sufficient funds for projects for which surveys were already made, particularly in Telangana;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to allocate sufficient funds for each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways has increased outlay for execution of projects in the year 2015-16 substantially. For major projects falling partly/fully in Telangana, an allotment of ₹ 678 crore has been made in the current financial year against the corresponding allotment for Telangana of ₹ 258 crore in the year 2014-15.

Development of handicraft sector

636. SHRI K. C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched in the current Five Year Plan for promotion and development of handicraft sector;

(b) the details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred during each of the last two years, State-wise; and