

(c) the budget allocation for 2015-16 along with the sanction details, till date, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) New Bongaigaon & Guwahati are connected by two separate Broad Gauge Routes. Doubling of both the routes *viz.* New Bongaigaon-Kamakhya *via* Rangiya (142 km) and Bongaigaon-Goalpara- Guwahati (176 km) has been included in Railway Budget subject to requisite Government approvals at an anticipated cost of ₹ 4494 crore. An outlay of ₹42 crore has been provided for these works in 2015-16.

#### **Criteria for declaring suburban railway services as a separate zone**

784. SHRI SACHIN RAMESH TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind creating a new zone for Kolkata Metro and whether it can be replicated in other cities such as Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi that also have similar suburban rail services;

(b) the criteria that a suburban railway system must fulfil to enable it to be notified as a separate zone; and

(c) whether the above three cities fulfil that criteria and are eligible for being notified as separate zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Metro Railway, Kolkata is a one-of-a-kind stand-alone system on Indian Railways (IR) which operates only Metro services. After taking this into consideration along with operational, administrative and other factors, the zonal railway status was granted to Metro Railway, Kolkata to, *inter-alia*, help this organization in its operations and in further expansion. In the Indian Railway system operational in other cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai, the suburban railway traffic is run along with the mainline traffic, *i.e.* unified operation of all types of trains takes place on the same infrastructure *viz.* track, bridges, signalling, Over Head Equipment (OHE), etc. Creation of exclusive zones for suburban systems, operated by Indian Railways, in Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai is not envisaged as segregation of suburban, non-suburban, freight traffic, etc. is not possible in these cities.

#### **Revision in train ticket booking and cancellation charges**

785. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has revised the rates of train ticket bookings and cancellations, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government is aware that the charges for cancellation of reserved ticket is too high and will cost much to poor people, if so, the details thereof; and