

Allocation of fund for medical tourism

2365. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount designated for medical tourism by the Indian Rail Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC); and

(b) whether such a scheme is exclusively available in the East Zone or will it be available to the rest of the country, if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has not allocated any special fund for Medical Tourism. As a Pilot Project, IRCTC has signed an MoU with M/s Appllo Hospital, Chennai for providing health check-up packages through its tourism website. The scheme will be considered for extension to other zones if the Pilot project succeeds.

Pending railway projects in Chhattisgarh

†2366. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the pending railway projects in Chhattisgarh and since when;

(b) whether survey of Rajnandgaon -Jabalpur *via* Bematara, Kawardha, Mandala railway line was sanctioned in 2013-14 and the survey of Raipur- Jabalpur *via* Khairagarh, Kawardha, Bodla railway line was sanctioned in 2012-13;

(c) if so, the target set for completion of the survey;

(d) whether doubling work of Jagdalpur-Koraput railway line and construction of Jharsuguda-Bilaspur flyover/bypass is pending and Bilaspur-Anuppur, Jharsugda-Bilaspur and Rajnandgaon-Nagpur railway lines are overloaded; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce the traffic load on these lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Railways have taken up 12 major rail network expansion projects, comprising 5 New Lines and 7 Doublings falling fully/partly in Chhattisgarh at an anticipated cost of ₹11,535 crore, the oldest being Bilaspur-Urkura 3rd line(sanctioned in 1997-98). These projects are at various stages of completion. In addition, 6 Doubling projects

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.