

- (a) whether the Prime Minister had made an announcement to link the Char Dham routes in Uttarakhand with railway lines;
- (b) whether the said announcement is likely to be implemented in near future;
- (c) if so, the details of progress made on the announced railway routes; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Preliminary Engineering survey for Rail Connectivity to Chardham and Chardham Yatra (Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath *via* Dehradun and Karanprayag) has been completed. Total cost of 327.11 Km. long rail line has been assessed as ₹ 43,292 Cr. To assess viability, Traffic Survey has been taken up.

Change in route of Bagh express

†2381. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bagh Express running from Kathgodam is still being run *via* Rampur despite the construction of broadgauge line;
- (b) if so, the justification therefor;
- (c) by when Bagh Express would run from Kathgodam to Bareilly directly; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. 13019/13020 Howrah-Kathgodam Bagh Express is well patronized on its presents schedule and route *via* Rampur. At present, there is no proposal to run it *via* the diverted route. However, diversion of trains is an ongoing process over Indian Railways and is done keeping in view the traffic demand, availability of services on the present route and the diverted route, operational feasibility, resource availability etc.

Facility of i-ticket for defence personnel

2382. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways have decided to extend the facility of hassle-free collection of i-tickets by defence personnel booked on the Defence Travel System, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.