

Paperless unreserved and platform tickets

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have launched facilities for booking of paperless unreserved tickets as well as platform tickets to cut down queues at station counters; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to launch more IT enabled passenger services, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) With a view to cut down queues at counters at Railway stations and to facilitate convenient booking of tickets by passengers, Indian Railways have introduced the facility of paperless unreserved tickets through mobile phone over suburban sections of Central, Western, Southern, Northern (New Delhi-Palwal section), Eastern and South Central Railways. Further, a pilot project of booking of platform tickets through mobile phones has also been introduced on some stations of these Zonal Railways.

Leveraging new technologies to facilitate passengers is a continuous and ongoing process.

Pending railway projects in Bihar

†431. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several railway projects in Bihar have been pending for a long time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for broad gauge line from Sakri Station *via* Nirmali *via* Kosi Mahasetu to Bhaptiyahi, inaugurated by the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has still been lying incomplete for several years;

(c) whether requisite funds have not been allocated or Government is ignoring it; and

(d) by when train services will be made operational on Kosi Mahasetu, the details thereof including time-limit therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) At present Railways have taken up 49 major projects

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

comprising 34 New Lines, nine Doublings and six Gauge Conversions falling fully/partly in Bihar at an anticipated cost of ₹ 50701 crore. An expenditure of ₹ 11531 crore has been incurred till March' 2015. Railways have a huge throwforward and limited resource availability for completion of new line projects. Hence a focussed approach has been adopted for completing these projects by prioritising.

(b) to (d) The Sakri-Laukaha Bazar-Nirmali and Saharsa-Forbesganj (206km) Gauge Conversion project was included in the year 2003-04 at an anticipated cost of ₹ 356 crore. As per the agreement with Ministry of Defence (MoD), this project was to be funded by MoD and accordingly the project has been progressing as per the funds released by them. Now to fast track this project, Ministry of Railways have decided to fund it through its own sources.

Construction of bridge over Kosi is already completed. However, it can be commissioned for railway traffic only after completion of Sakri-Nirmali and Saharsa-Forbesganj Gauge Conversion project. No time frame has been fixed for commissioning of train services on this section.

Train service from Samastipur to New Delhi

†432. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Samastipur is a divisional office under Hazipur zone in Bihar but even being a major junction of Northern India, it has not been provided with a superfast train for New Delhi, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government has formulated a plan to run a new train from Samastipur to New Delhi, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Samastipur is a division under East Central Railway zone having its head-quarters at Hajipur. At present, Samastipur is connected to Delhi by 13 pairs of Express trains including the services like Rajdhani Express and Garib Rath Express.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to run a new train from Samastipur to New Delhi. However, introduction of train services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways keeping in view traffic demand, operational feasibility, availability of resources etc.

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