

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.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.