

1576. [Question was cancelled.]

Introduction of dynamic and special fares by railways

1577. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Railways are planning to introduce dynamic fares in all trains or special fares for tickets booked closure to the departure date;
- (b) if so, the rationale and reason behind such measures; and
- (c) the revenue that Railways expect to generate through any of the above proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

RO water dispensing booths at railway stations of Maharashtra

1578. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to install RO water dispensing booths at all railway stations of Maharashtra within a time-frame; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) With a view to augment availability of purified drinking water to passengers at affordable rates conforming to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been entrusted with the task of providing Water Vending Machines (WVMs) at all Railway stations, in a phased manner. At present, one Water Vending Machine based on Reverse Osmosis System (RO) has been installed at Khar Mumbai (BCT) Division. Further, it has been decided to install about 250 more WVMs at different stations in Maharashtra. The time-frame set for commissioning of all the above WVMs in Maharashtra is March, 2017.

Doubling of railway lines in Bihar

†1579. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is going to soon start the work on doubling of railway lines in Bihar, which are lying incomplete for years, if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the amount provided in the 2016-17 Budget for the projects- Hajipur to Muzaffarpur, Hajipur to Barauni *via* Bachhwara, Smastipur to Darbhanga, Darbhanga to Jaynagar and from Sakri to Kosi Mahasetu *via* Nirmali, project-wise;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete all these projects; and

(d) the details of amount provided for all the incomplete railway projects in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) There are total 13 ongoing doubling projects falling partly/fully in Bihar. Out of these, nine doubling projects have been included in the Budget 2015-16 and 2016-17. The oldest ongoing doubling project in the State, *viz.* Pirpainti-Bhagalpur was sanctioned in 2011-12. To fast track doubling projects in Bihar, fund allotment has been substantially enhanced in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

(b) The amount provided in the Budget 2016-17 for the desired projects are given as under:-

- (i) Hajipur-Muzaffarpur section: double line exists between Muzaffarpur-Ramdayalu Nagar. For doubling between Ramdayalu Nagar-Hajipur, an outlay of ₹160 crore has been provided in 2016-17.
- (ii) Hajipur-Bachwara-Barauni section: double line exists on Bachwara-Barauni part. For doubling between Bachwara-Hajipur, an outlay of ₹ 70 crore has been provided in 2016-17.
- (iii) For doubling of Samastipur-Darbhanga, an outlay of ₹ 45 crore has been provided in 2016-17.
- (iv) For gauge conversion project of Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj, an amount of ₹ 60 crore has been earmarked in 2016-17.
- (v) For Sakri-Laukaha Bazar-Nirmali and Saharsa-Forbesganj gauge conversion project, an outlay of ₹ 100 crore has been provided in 2016-17.
- (vi) For new line project of Kosi Bridge, an outlay of ₹ 60 has been provided in 2016-17.

Completion of project depends upon several factors including availability of funds, complete handing over of encumbrance-free land by the State Government forestry clearances, shifting of utilities, etc. Since most of these factors are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways, no time-frame has been fixed for completion of the projects.

(d) Allotment of funds are not done State-wise, but project-wise. An outlay of ₹ 3274 crore has been provided in 2016-17 for new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects falling partly/fully in Bihar.

Investment in additional routes

1580. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are looking to invest in additional routes in the coming months; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that priority would be given to some short routes where the viability is already established, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Ministry of Railways has included 59 projects (18 New Line, 2 Gauge Conversion and 39 Doubling) covering a length of 5339 km in Railway Budget 2016-17 subject to requisite approvals.

Further, in anticipation of various State Governments coming forward to take up projects through Joint Venture, 30 projects (25 New Line, 2 Doubling and 3 Gauge Conversion) covering a length of 3078 km have been included in Capital Investment Programme of 2016-17 (incorporated as annexure to the 'Pink Book' of sanctioned works) which was presented before the House in February, 2016 alongwith Railway Budget.

(b) No such decision to accord priority to short routes has been taken.

Cross-subsidising passenger fares

1581. SHRI S.THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways incur a loss of ₹ 30,000 crore every year in cross-subsidising passenger fares;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on an average, Railways bear 43 per cent cost of travel, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the decision not to increase the passenger fare has prevented the transporter from tinkering with tariffs over the years, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. During the year 2014-15, the overall losses in Passenger and other coaching services was ₹ 33490.95 crore.