

(c) whether any mechanism exist to prioritize the pending projects, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) There is only one project in Himachal Pradesh which is more than 10 years old. The detail is as under:-

Nangaldam-Talwara (83.74 km.) new broad gauge line and Taking over siding of Mukerian-Talwara (26.16 km.) :

The project was sanctioned in 1981-82. Section from Nangaldam to Amb Andaura (44.25 km.) has been commissioned. On Amb Andaura-Chintpurni-Daulatpur Chowk (16 km.) section, work has been taken up after acquisition of land in 2014-15 and 2015-16. From Daulatpur Chowk to Kartoli Punjab (10 km.), land acquisition for 24 hect. has been taken up by Government of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Due to paucity of fund and delay in land acquisition, the project could not be taken up at desired pace in the past resulting in cost escalation and delays. In the last two years, adequate funds have been allotted *i.e.* ₹100 crore each in 2015-16 and 2016-17, but the pace of the execution is slow due to land acquisition related issues in Himachal Pradesh. Regarding taking over of siding from Mukerian to Talwara, land for the same has been taken over long back and Final Location Survey has been taken up to assess works needed to be carried out. Progress of this taking over of siding will be dove-tailed with progress of construction of new line in the balance section.

All sanctioned projects are reviewed periodically both at Ministry and Zonal Railway level for which there exists a well established mechanism. Railway projects have been prioritized in A to C category in order of their importance. Category A has been further sub-categorized as A1 for Nation Projects, A2 for cost sharing projects with the State Governments, A3 for intermediate critical projects, A4 for medium critical projects and A5 for other important projects.

Optional travel insurance

2845. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that very few train passengers opt for optional travel insurance while booking a train ticket, if so, the details of the same since introduction of this scheme; and

(b) whether Railways are also considering to make travel insurance mandatory for all train ticket bookings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The Optional Travel Insurance Scheme has been launched w.e.f. 01.09.2016 on a pilot basis for one year for the Railway passengers who book e-ticket through official website of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). On an average, roughly 55% of the eligible passengers per day are opting for Travel Insurance. Total 3,15,28,582 number of passengers opted for Travel Insurance Scheme from 01.09.2016 to 28.11.2016.

(b) No, Sir.

Collapse of Najibabad bridge

†2846. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Garhwal Express and Mussoorie Express, which run from Delhi to Kotdwar, have not been running for last four months due to the collapse of a bridge ahead of Najibabad as a result of which, people and traders of Uttarakhand are facing a lot of problems; and

(b) if so, by when this bridge would be made operational and the reasons for slow pace of work on this bridge, and the details of the action taken against concerned officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. The following trains have been cancelled with effect from 23.07.2016 and cancellation is still continuing due to damage of pier No.4 of bridge No. 16 between Sanh Road and Kotdwara, on Najibabad- Kotdwara section, Moradabad division, Northern Railway:

Cancellation

Mail/Express Trains

(1) 24041/24042 (Najibabad- Kotdwara)

Passenger Trains

(2) 54091/54092 (Najibabad-Kotdwara)

(3) 54385/ 54386 (Najibabad-Kotdwara)

(4) 54387 54388 (Najibabad-Kotdwara)

(5) 54389/54390 (Najibabad-Kotdwara)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.