

(b) whether it is proposed to increase the frequency of trains running between Jodhpur and Southern India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) On entire Indian Railways (including in the trains going from Rajasthan towards Southern India) demand pattern varies during peak and lean periods. During peak periods/days like Holi, Summer Vacations, Pooja/Dussehra holidays, Diwali/Chhath, Winter vacations, the demand outstrips the availability. During this period, reserved accommodation especially in the trains running on popular routes particularly in upper class gets exhausted within short duration of opening of reservation. However, during lean periods and on non-popular routes, confirmed accommodation is available for longer duration in most of the trains.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

MoU with Government of Odisha for new railway lines

3491. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an MoU has been signed with Government of Odisha for new railway lines connecting Jeypore with Nabarangpur and Jeypore with Malkangiri;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions on which the MoU is based and the time-line for its completion; and

(c) the status of a railway line initiated by the British during 1934, connecting Kantabanji to Bhadrachalam through Rajkhariar, Ampani, Nabarangpur and Jeypore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two MoUs have been signed between Ministry of Railways and Government of Odisha. As per MoUs signed, 50% cost of construction and entire land for Jeypore-Nabarangpur (38 km) New line, and 25% cost of construction for Jeypore-Malkangiri (130 km) new line project will be provided by the State Government of Odisha. However, since completion of the project depends on several factors including availability of funds, complete handing over of encumbrance-free land by the State Government, forestry clearances, shifting of utilities, law and order problems, etc. and most of these factors are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways, no time-line for completion of these projects has been fixed.

(c) A survey for a New Line between Kantabanji and Jeypore *via* Raj Khariar, Ampani and Nabarangpur (230 km) has been completed and the cost of the project has been assessed as ₹ 2527.69 crores with a negative Rate of Return (RoR). Since the project is unremunerative in nature and the Railways have huge throwforward of ongoing projects, limited availability of resources for new lines and other competing priorities, the project could not be sanctioned. However, two new line projects, (i) Jeypore-Nabarangpur (38 km) and (ii) Jeypore-Malkangiri (130 km) which are part of the above survey, have been included in the Budget 2016-17 subject to approval from the Government. The only part left out in the survey, *i.e.* Malkangiri to Bhadrachalam has been taken up as part of another survey, from Junagarh-Jeypore-Malkangiri to Bhadrachalam (390 km).

Target of laying new rail lines

†3492. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways had set any target of laying new railway lines during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Chhattisgarh;
- (c) the details of the achievements made out of the targets set, so far;
- (d) whether there has been a decline in the rate of laying of new rail lines, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Railways to achieve the set targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) Targets for laying of new rail lines are not fixed State-wise. However, year-wise details of targets fixed and achieved for commissioning of new railway lines during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Target (Revised)	Achieved (in Kms)
2013-14*	450	450
2014-15	300	380
2015-16	500	813

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

* Track linking.