

Poor quality of food in Duronto express

2078. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently a number of passengers fell ill after consuming poor quality of food in the Duronto Express;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what measures are adopted to put a check on such incidents; and
- (d) whether any action has been initiated against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Few passengers complained about under-cooked chicken in Sealdah-Puri Duronto Express train on 30.06.2018. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) conducted an enquiry into the matter and imposed adequate monetary fine on the catering licence for the serious lapses. Apart from the monetary fine, the contract of the same train has been given to another catering licensee after 30.06.2018.

Survey for Samastipur-Bhagwanpur rail line

†2079. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has conducted a survey for Samastipur-Bhagwanpur new railway line;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government would make budgetary provision for the construction of this rail stretch as it is a very important project which is related to the development of transportation in this very backward and unfathomable area; and
- (d) by when this project would materialise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Railways have taken up a Reconnaissance Engg-cum-Traffic Survey (RETS) for New Line between Bhagwanpur- Samastipur *via* Mahua, Tajpur (60 km) and tenders for the same have been invited.

(c) and (d) Allocation of funds to the project is made only after it is sanctioned and sanction/materialisation of this project depends upon its financial viability projected in survey report.

The survey requires interaction with various departments of State Government, District Administration, trade and industries, etc. for assessment of traffic projection. It also involves preparation of plan, drawing, calculation of cost, rate of return, etc. Since this is an extensive exercise, no time frame has been fixed for completion of this survey.

**Gauge conversion and electrification of railway lines in
Assam and North Eastern States**

2080. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had proposed any new broad gauge line and electrification of railway tracks in Assam and other North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of the funds released by Government for the purpose during the last four years;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey for the new broad gauge lines and electrification of railway tracks in Assam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) 3 New Line projects have been included in Budget subject to requisite Government approvals in North Eastern Region including Assam during the last 4 years. Details of these projects including funds released during last four years are as under: