

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal with the Railways for construction of Railway bridge over river Ganga and laying new line between Aara and Chhapra. The existing nearest rail-cum-road bridge between Patna-Sonepur is only 49 km away from Aara.

The accrued benefit regarding Aara-Chhapra Ganga road bridge after its construction cannot be commented upon since the same does not belong to Railways.

**Doubling and electrification of Machilipatnam-Vijayawada railway line**

2845. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is executing doubling and electrification of Machilipatnam-Vijayawada railway line on the basis of cost sharing with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has entered into contract with the State Government in this regard including the sharing of Rate of Return (RoR);

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (e) Machilipatnam-Vijayawada (79.43 km.) is part of Vijaywada-Gudivada-Bhimavaram-Narasapur, Gudivada-Machlipatnam and Bhimavaram-Nidadavolu (221 km.) Doubling with electrification project which was sanctioned at total cost of ₹1503.71 crore on 50% cost sharing basis with Government of Andhra Pradesh. There is no sharing of Rate of Return (RoR) on this project. The various works such as earth works, construction of minor and major bridges, ballast supply etc. have been taken up.

**Old railway tracks and coaches used by Railways in Maharashtra**

2846. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are still using very old railway tracks and rail coaches which have expired their life span in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;