

for travel on these sectors while the same journey is done in 1.5 to 3 hours by air.

Upgradation of Rajdhani express trains

2866. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to upgrade existing Rajdhani express train between Delhi and Mumbai for reduction of journey time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether trial run conducted by Government have been found to be safe and successful and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether upgradation of Rajdhani express train running between Delhi and Guwahati and other North Eastern States is also under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal of revising the timings of the existing 2 pairs of Rajdhani Express trains running between Delhi and Mumbai viz. 12951/12952 Mumbai Central-New Delhi Rajdhani Express (daily) and 12953/12954 Mumbai Central-Hazrat Nizamuddin August Kranti Rajdhani Express (daily). However, special Rajdhani Express train viz. 09003/09004 Bandra(T)-Hazrat Nizamuddin Special Rajdhani (tri-weekly) with journey time of 13 hours 55 minutes in both directions has been operated on an experimental basis after successful trials.

(d) At present, there is no such proposal.

Creation of infrastructure for freight at railway yards

2867. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to create sidings and freight terminals involving private players to increase freight transportation with ease in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much of additional volume of freight could be handled by Indian Railways and what would be the additional revenue generation, if freight infrastructure is improved?