

(c) 4,12,488 Mail Express trains reached destination on time out of 5,77,756 Mail Express trains run during the year 2017-18.

Motihari-sitamarhi rail line via Shivhar

†1267. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 689 kilometer long Motihari-Sitamarhi rail line via Shivhar had been approved in 2007;

(b) whether approximately ₹ 100 crore have been spent on this rail project during last ten years;

(c) whether it is a fact that Railways have cancelled the Motihari-Sitamarhi via Shivhar rail line;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government is aware of the fact that Shivhar region, which is on the border of Nepal, is very backward and is deprived of railway facility even today after so many years of independence; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) The Motihari-Sitamarhi (78 km) new line project was included in supplementary Budget 2006-07 at an estimated cost of ₹ 211 crore. An expenditure of ₹ 24 crore has been incurred on this project upto 31.03.2018.

(c) to (f) The Motihari-Sitamarhi (78 km) new line project was put on hold in view of available railway routes in the adjoining area and negative rate of return of the project. Now a proposal for part execution of the project from Sitamarhi to Shivhar (28 Km) is under examination.

Late running of trains

†1268. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the trains are arriving late to their destinations with a delay of at least two-three hours;

(b) whether Government is aware that trains' movement is getting delayed by two-three hours on the Delhi-Mughalsarai section;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether most of the trains arriving at Delhi from Kanpur are running with a delay of two-three hours, along with trains on Kota-Mathura-Agra Section and trains from Sonipat to Delhi are also running with a delay of one to two hours; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to resolve the said problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) On an average 192 Mail/Express trains per day reached their destination with a delay of two-three hours or more during the year 2017-18 over Indian Railways including trains running on Delhi-Mughalsarai, Kanpur-Delhi, Kota-Mathura-Agra and Sonipat-Delhi routes.

The punctuality of trains on these routes is affected due to over saturated line capacity utilization and Terminal constraints.

Indian Railways have initiated various short and long term measures for addressing the problem of capacity constraints on the Mughalsarai-Allahabad-Ghaziabad sector which includes provision of automatic signaling from Aligarh to Ghaziabad on 3rd line, extension of platforms, raising of speed to 160 kmph on New Delhi- Mughalsarai route besides the construction of double-line Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) between Mughalsarai-Allahabad-Khurja, 4th line between Palwal-Mathura, 3rd and 4th line between Mathura-Bina, Doubling of Jhansi-Kanpur, 3rd line between Panki-Bhaupur etc.

These steps will help easing out line capacity constraints and in punctual running of trains.

Development of meelavittan Railway Station

1269. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to develop Meelavittan railway station in Tuticorin district with various measures for passenger amenities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal is pending with Government to introduce "Double-Decker" train between Tuticorin and Chennai Egmore; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?