

Area Rail Sampark Yojana have not yet been started on account of lack of funds and other reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter-alia* indicating the projects that are located on the ECoR rail system; and

(c) what is the time-frame within which these would be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Remote Area Rail Sampark Yojana (RARSY) was proposed to be launched for new line and gauge conversion projects primarily taken up on socio-economic considerations to provide rail connectivity to backward, hilly, tribal and far-flung areas of the country. However, the Yojana did not take off as funds could not be tied up. These projects including that of East Coast Railway (ECoR) have been taken up and will be completed in coming years as per availability of resources.

(c) No time frame is feasible to be fixed and ongoing projects would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

#### **Compensation to kins of deceased in rail accidents in Bihar**

†2078. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the cases pending regarding demand of compensation by the family of the deceased persons died in the railway accidents in Bihar;

(b) whether any time schedule has been fixed for taking decision;

(c) if so, by when the hearing of the pending cases would be completed; and

(d) by when the compensation would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 44 cases are pending in Patna, Kolkata and Ranchi Benches of Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) on this account.

(b) to (d) The decision about compensation to be paid by Railways is taken by Railway Claims Tribunal which is a quasi-judicial body for which no time-frame is prescribed.

#### **Badam Pahar-Keonjhar Rail Link**

2079. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has conducted the survey of Badam Pahar-Keonjhar rail link alongwith Baripada-Bangriposi rail link;

(b) if so, how much funds have been estimated for these projects;

(c) if so, by when the above project would be started and completed; and

(d) what is the progress regarding the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the survey for Badam Pahar-Keonjhar new line has been taken up

separately. The work of gauge conversion of Rupsa-Bangriposi (90 kms) has already been taken up at a cost of Rs. 137.56 crore. Rupsa-Baripada (52 Kms) section, of this project is completed and commissioned. On Baripada-Bangriposi (38 Kms) section earthwork and construction of minor bridges and Road Over/Under Bridges have been taken up. An outlay of Rs. 35 crore has been provided during 2007-08 and the section is likely to be completed in next 2 years.

#### UTS facility at stations

2080. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UTS facility is available at all the stations across the country;

(b) if so, why such facility can not be availed at Deoband railway station, Uttar Pradesh by general public; and

(c) by when Government would sort out this matter alongwith telephonic enquiry problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. So far, facility of Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) is functional at 892 locations in the country. Remaining stations of category 'A', 'B', 'C' 'D', and 'E', totaling to Approximately 5000 stations, are sanctioned and will be commissioned in due course.

(b) and (c) UTS has already been commissioned at Deoband station. Telephone enquiry is already functional in entire northern region in the form of 'Integrated Train Enquiry System'. Passengers can dial a universal number 139 as a local call across the country for all rail related enquiries.

#### Revamping the New Bongaigaon-Guwahati Suburban Railway System

2081. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to revamp the New Bongaigaon-Guwahati Suburban Railway System for bringing down the over crowding in the local train to consider the demands of the local people to increase the number of local trains;

(b) if so, the details of proposals; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, New Bongaigaon-Guwahati section is being adequately catered by 3 pairs of passengers trains. Besides, to cater to the growing needs two pairs of passenger train viz. 701/702 New Bongaigaon-Guwahati Passenger and 703/704 Alipurduar Jn.—Guwahati Shifung Passenger have been augmented by 2 coaches w.e.f. 21.02.2007 and 01-08-2007 respectively.