

(d) the total expected expenditure on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) 84 km of Meter Gauge track is likely to be converted to Broad Gauge during the current financial year.

(b) With the above conversion, total route kilometer of Broad-Gauge track in Tamil Nadu by the end of the current Financial year will be 2128 km.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal to convert all Meter Gauge lines in the State. The throwforward of sanctioned projects under Gauge Conversion plan head in the State beyond 1.4.2002 is about Rs. 1600 crore.

Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi Train

†2478. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shatabdi Trains running on Delhi-Dehradun route, via Saharanpur, take more time to reach their destinations;

(b) if so, whether passengers from Uttaranchal using this Shatabdi train have been demanding reduction in the time being taken by it in reaching its destination; and

(c) if so, the steps to be taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) Some representation for reduction in the running time of 2017/2018 New Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi Express have been received.

(c) The distance between New Delhi and Dehradun is about 313 kms. and the commercial speed of Dehradun Shatabdi is about 56 kmph. The relatively low speed is on account of the train engine reversals and low speeds on single line and non-electrified sections viz. Meerut-Saharanpur and Laksar-Dehradun. In addition, there are demands for reduction of speed of trains in Rajaji National Park, which lies, on Laksar-Dehradun sector from various organisations. However, 2055/2056

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[13 December, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

Dehradun-New Delhi Jan Shatabdi Express by-passing Saharanpur has been introduced. 2017/2018 New Delhi-Dehradun Shatabdi Express is the fastest train between New Delhi and Dehradun.

Train between Mumbai and Goa

2479. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway propose to introduce a fast train between Mumbai and Goa, to cover the distance within five to six hours;

(b) if so, whether it is going to be the fastest train in India;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the main features of the train and its cost; and

(d) the progress made in this direction so far, and by when the services are likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) Introduction of high-speed trains on Indian Railways is an ongoing process. At present, there is no such proposal to introduce a fast train between Mumbai and Goa, which cover the distance in 5 to 6 hours. However, permission of Commissioner of Railway Safety is being sought to conduct speed trials on Madgaon-Roha (excluding) section.

Connecting rail tracks with electric circuits

†2480. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme under consideration to connect rail tracks with electric circuits to make train journey more safe and to prevent accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rail coaches are being modified for this purpose; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.