

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1637
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNELS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are constructing the longest railway tunnel in the country under Northern Railway zone;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways proposes to construct more railway tunnels in other hilly areas of the country to facilitate expansion of rail network; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KOTLA JAYA SURYA PRAKASH REDDY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. A 11 Km long tunnel through Pir Panjal range of mountains has been constructed as part of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla new line project. The tunnel which is the longest in the country, falls in the Qazigund-Banihal section of the project which is targeted to be completed by March 2013.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. Railway tunnels totalling for nearly 300 Km of length are under various stages of construction as parts of various new line, doubling and gauge conversion projects falling in the Himalayan states, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.