

steps to run EMU service between Kharagpur and Sealdah via C.C. Chord section;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay to start this service when all facilities are available;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that if this service is being introduced, the pressure on Howrah railway station would be reduced considerably; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Provision of a direct EMU service between Kharagpur and Sealdah could provide some relief to Howrah Railway Station. However introduction of direct passenger trains between Kharagpur and Sealdah via Andul-Calcutta Chord is presently not feasible due to operational and technical constraints. An Engineering-cum-traffic survey for Kharagpur-Dankuni-Sealdah sector has been taken up.

#### Shortage of Staff

236. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :  
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to shortage of staff, posting of Train Superintendents have been delayed in selected trains;

(b) the initiative taken by the Government to fill up the vacant post;

(c) whether the Government are considering any proposal to promote junior Staff to Train Superintendent (TS) and create new posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the efforts which are underway to post Train Superintendents in the selected trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (e) The postings of Train Superintendents have been delayed in some trains due to non-availability of suitable willing staff. All out efforts are underway for posting Train Superintendents in the selected trains by deploying willing staff and creation of additional posts.

#### Introduction of Superfast Train between Howrah and Kanyakumari

237. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken note of the demand of the people of Karala as well as Calcutta for a superfast train between Howrah and Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce at least once a week such train between these two places;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for forcing the people to avail break-journey to reach both the places ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard.

(b) to (d) It has been decided to extend 6315/6316 Howrah-Cochin Express upto Trivendrum. Provision of a direct service between Howrah and Kanniya Kumari is presently not feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

#### Capacity of EMU Car Shed

238. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of homing capacity of EMU car-sheds under Howrah, Sealdah and Kharagpur divisions, car-shed wise;

(b) whether all the car-sheds are equipped to handle 12 coach EMU rakes;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor.

(d) whether there is any proposal to modernise these car-sheds and make them fit to handle 12 coach EMU rakes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The homing capacity of EMU car sheds under Howrah, Sealdah and Kharagpur Divisions are as under :-