

(e) Does not arise.

AIRPORT AT SHIRDI, MAHARASHTRA

1003. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION, AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct an airport at Shirdi in Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

TRACTION FACTORY AT NASIK

1004. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to shift the railway traction factory from Nasik to some other place ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) There is no Railway Traction Factory at Nasik. There is one Traction Motor Workshop at Nasik for repairs of Traction Motors. There is no proposal to shift the Workshop.

(b) Does not arise.

ADDITIONAL BOGIES IN PANCHVATI EXPRESS

1005. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of first class bogies in Panchvati Express ; and

(b) if so, when ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

CONVERSION OF MIRAJ-LATUR AND CONSTRUCTION OF OSMANABAD-LATUR-PANDHARPUK LINE

1006. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is proposal for the conversion of Miraj-Latur via Pandharpur from narrow gauge to broad gauge and construction of new railway line for connecting Osmanabad to Latur and Pandharpur in Maharashtra ;

(b) the reasons for not undertaking these works on priority ;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has proposed to participate in the project cost ; and

(d) whether the Union Government have a proposal for the creation of an independent authority on the line of Konkan Railway Corporation for this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (d) Survey for conversion of Miraj-Latur NG line BG and its extension to Latur Road was carried out in 1975. Cost of 359 km. length of new BG line was then assessed at Rs. 43.12 crores with a rate of return of 1.4%. As the survey had revealed inadequate traffic prospect the project was not taken up. In 1990, Government of Maharashtra recommended taking up this work and also connecting Osmanabad with this line.

The proposal was to set up a Corporation for taking up this project along with other project on the lines of Konkan Railway Corporation. While sanctioning Konkan Railway Project Ministry of Finance has laid down that no similar Corpora-