

**B. G. Railway lines in Kerala**

**621. Shri P. P. Esthose:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the railways in Kerala into broad-gauge lines; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). Apparently the Hon'ble Member is referring to the proposal for conversion of the Ernakulam-Trivandrum MG section into BG. Conversion of this section is not an immediate necessity as ample line capacity is available on the Metre Gauge section which can further be augmented if required by provision of minor line capacity works and by dieselisation.

**Extension Centre at Muvattupuzha**

**622. Shri P. P. Esthose:** Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mass memorandum from the local people of Muvattupuzha relating to the Government of India Extension Centre, Muvattupuzha has been received; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) A Memorandum from 24 residents of Muvattupuzha was received.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-416/87.]

**Fly over from Itarsi station to Bhilakhedi Yard (Central Ry.)**

**623. Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Railway are constructing

a Fly over from Itarsi station to Bhilakhedi yard;

(b) if so, the cost thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to lay a few more pairs of lines on ground from Itarsi station to the said yard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to lay any additional lines from the station to the yard.

(d) The necessity of providing additional lines has not arisen.

**Bhilakhedi yard and Itarsi Railway Station**

**624. Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the distance between Bhilakhedi yard and Itarsi Railway Station;

(b) whether the above two places are connected by pucca road and if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are no school, hospital and Bazar facilities at Bhilakhedi yard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there are no police arrangements for protection at the said yard; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not providing such facilities there?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Bhilakhedi Yard is at a distance of about six kilometres from Itarsi Railway Station.

(b) These places are connected by a pucca road.

(c) A single teacher Primary School is functioning at Bhillakhedji Yard since January, 1967. Provision of marketing facilities has been approved and is being arranged. A lock up dispensary is functioning in the Yard since 26-1-1968, and the doctor from the Health Unit in Itarsi attends to it.

(d) Adequate Railway Protection staff have been posted to guard the Bhillakhedji Yard. In addition, there is a proposal for opening a G.R.P. Out Post.

(e) Please see reply to (c) above

#### Railway Quarters at Itarsi Station

625. **Shri Nitiraj Singh Chandhary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 'H' type Railway quarters at Itarsi (C. Railway);

(b) when they were constructed and at what cost;

(c) whether it is a fact that said quarters can exist for 20 years or more; and

(d) if so, why they are being demolished?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) Yes, there are 31 such quarters at Itarsi.

(b) The quarters were constructed during 1943 at an approximate cost of Rs. 76,000.

(c) No, as they are of a purely temporary type.

(d) The quarters were meant to last for about 10 years. Their condition has become unsafe due to development of cracks, sagging of roofs etc., and they are consequently being demolished.

#### Allotment of Wagons for Transporting Chests

626. **Shri K. M. Abraham:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any petition from Saw Mill owners of Kottiyam District, has been received for the allotment of wagons to transport chests from Kottayam and Ettumanur Railway Stations;

(b) whether it is a fact that the concerned Station Masters are not allowing to load chests in empty wagons sent from there; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to issue instructions to the authorities concerned for permission to transport chests so that work may be resumed in these saw mills?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) to (c). A representation was received from Quilon Packing Cases Suppliers Association for allotment of wagons for booking chests from Kottayam and Ettumanur stations.

During the period from 1st January to 15th May, 1967, 55 wagons of packing cases were loaded at these stations and as on 15th May, 1967, there are only five demands outstanding which could not be met due limited transshipment capacity at Ernakulam. Steps have been taken to supplement Contractor's labour with Departmental labour to improve the transshipment performance there.

#### Import of Pearls

627. **Dr. Karni Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many gold and silver smiths have been denied the opportunity of making applications for the import of synthetic stones and cultured pearls because necessary application forms have not been supplied to them so far; and

(b) whether time-limit for the consideration of the applications will