

**Introduction of a Direct train from
Delhi to Kanyakumari**

64. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are examining the question of introducing a direct train from Delhi to Kanyakumari;

(b) when it is likely to start; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) to (c). Conversion of the Ernakulam-Trivandrum M. G. section to B. G. (at a cost of Rs. 13.60 crores) has already been sanctioned and construction of the Trivandrum-Cape Comorin-Tirunelveli BG rail link (at a cost of Rs. 14.53 crores), is under active consideration. Introduction of a direct train from Delhi to Kanyakumari can be considered only after the construction of the Trivandrum-Cape Comorin line which would take about 4 years after it is sanctioned.

**Double Railway line from Cochin to
Shoranur (Southern Railway)**

65. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the plan for doubling the Railway line between Cochin and Shoranur has been finalised;

(b) if so, an outline and the estimated cost thereof, and

(c) when the work is expected to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Patch doubling of 18 km between (i) Mullurcarai-Wadakancheri and (ii) Pudukad-Irinjalakuda estimated to cost Rs. 200 lakhs is under consideration.

(c) It will take about three years to complete the work after the estimate for the work is sanctioned.

**Decline in Export of Pepper to
Italy and Canada**

66. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(c) whether export of pepper to Italy and Canada has registered a decline in the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to arrest the decline ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Export of pepper to Italy has declined during the last three years. Export of pepper to Canada during 1970-71 was higher than that during 1968-69 but lower than that during 1969-70 in quantity but more in value realization. Statement of exports of Pepper to Italy & Canada for the years 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1970-71 is given in Statement.

(b) Higher price of Indian Pepper than other Competing varieties.

(c) No specific measures are envisaged in relation to Italy and Canada but efforts are being made to secure an overall increase in our exports of Pepper.

STATEMENT

I. Black Pepper exports to Italy.

Year	Quantity in M. Tons	Value in Rs. (Lakhs)
1968-69	1789	97.60
1969-70	1279	82.58
1970-71	751	97.23

II. Black Pepper Exports to Canada.

Year	Quantity in M. Tons.	Value in Rs. (Lakhs)
1968-69	854	43.53
1969-70	933	64.08
1970-71	908	75.14