

Conversion of Gwalior-Shivpuri Line into Broad Gauge Line and its Extension upto Guna

2578. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from the Gwalior Commerce and Industry Organisation for the conversion of Gwalior-Shivpuri railway line into broad gauge line;

(b) whether the Organisation has stressed the need to extend it upto Guna to link Indore via Maksi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE):

(a) A representation has been received regarding construction of BG line from Gwalior to Shivpuri.

(b) Yes.

(c) Gwalior-Shivpuri Narrow Gauge line was closed to traffic on 1st August, 1975 as it was attracting very little traffic and was running at heavy loss. On account of paucity of resources, it will not be possible to consider construction of a new line from Gwalior to Shivpuri and its extension upto Guna.

Harassment of a Group of Students at Mehsana Station

2579. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of student from Delhi visiting Gujarat are harassed and put to all difficulties by the Railway authorities at Mehsana Railway Station;

(b) whether it is a regular practice of railway authorities to harass the tourist groups to extract bribes; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken against the corrupt officers and prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE):

(a) No case of general harassment of student groups from Delhi at Mehsana Station has come to notice. In an incident on 30th May, 1977, 2nd class coach No. 34213 in which delegates of Gandhi Peace Foundation had arrived at Mehsana by 35 UP Kirti Express, was declared sick on examination by the Train Examiner and arrangements made by the railway authorities to tranship the delegates to another coach (Mahesana-Ahmedabad Slip coach) to be hauled by 67 UP, according to party's original programme. The delegates, however, protested against the decision to mark coach No. 34213 as 'sick' and refused to shift to another coach.

(b) No.

(c) Whenever any such complaints are received these are looked into and action taken on merits. In the incident referred to in answer to part (a), following an enquiry by railway officers, the Train Examiner and Assistant Yard Master held responsible for delay in attending to the sick coach so that the same coach could go according to programme, are being taken up for departmental action.

Overbridge at Varkala

2580. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: SHRI K. KUNHAMBU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received many representations for the construction of an overbridge at Varkala (Kerala);

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) when will the work commence and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) Two representations have been received by the Railway for the provision of a road overbridge at Varkala (on Varkala-Kallambalam Road) in replacement of level crossing at km 786/13-14.

(b) Proposals for the construction of road over/under bridges in replacement of level crossings are to be sponsored by the State Government (Road Authority), who have also to give as undertaking to bear their share of the cost as per extant rules. The representationists have been accordingly advised to move the State Government to sponsor the proposal. No communication in this regard has so far been received from the State Government.

(c) Does not arise, in view of reply to (b) above.

Reaction of State Government on Conversion of Uneconomic Railway Lines

2581. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sent proposals to certain states for the conversion of uneconomic railway lines into roads; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) No such proposals have been sent to the State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

Role of Public Sector in Oil Industry & Trade

2582. **SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the present role of public sector in the whole oil industry and trade in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): Except for Oil India Limited, which operates in a limited area in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas in the country is looked after by the public sector. In the field of refining and marketing only Assam Oil Company, which has a small refinery at Digboi, is yet to be taken over by the public sector. Negotiations for the take over of Assam Oil Company and Burmah Oil Company's interest in Oil India Ltd. are in hand and are expected to conclude in a few months time.

Corporate Plan for Indian Railways

2583. **SHRI SARAT KUMAR KAR:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to implement a corporate plan of fifteen years for Indian Railways; and

(b) if so, what specific proposals are made in that plan for a backward state like Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) and (b). Indian Railways have prepared a Corporate Plan giving the estimated rail transport requirements upto the year 1988-89 and also the measures required to be taken to meet the demand.

Specific projects and proposals are to be finalised from time to time in consultation with Zonal Railways and