

(b) if so, when the new system is expected to become functional, and

(c) whether there is any proposal to computerise the reservation system in some other stations in Kerala and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The system is likely to become functional by March 1991 subject to availability of funds

(c) There is no proposal at present to computerise the reservation system at any other station in Kerala

Doubling of Ernakulam-Trivandrum Railway Line

1837 PROF P J KURIEN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the doubling of track between Ernakulam and Trivandrum is in progress,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) by what time it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Alternative BG alignment between Ernakulam and Kayankulam via Alleppey (100 km) and doubling of track between Kayankulam and Quilon (41 km) as phase-I of Kayankulam-Trivandrum doubling (106 km).

(c) Ernakulam-Alleppey (57 km) has already been completed and is expected to

be opened for passenger traffic by September, 89. Work on Alleppey-Kayankulam new line (43 km) is in progress and is expected to be completed in 1991-92, subject to availability of resources. Doubling between Kayankulam and Quilon (41 km) has been approved in the Railway Budget for 1989-90 while that between Quilon and Trivandrum will be approved after sufficient progress is made on the former. These are expected to be completed during the VIII and IX Plan period.

Decline in prices of spices

1838 PROF P J KURIEN Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been a decline in the prices of major spices produced in India during the past three years

(b) if so, the main reasons thereof,

(c) the measures taken to arrest the decline in prices

(d) whether the decline in prices has led to the growers switching over to other crops in a substantial way

(e) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P R DAS MUNSI) (a) to (c) The major spices grown in the country are Black Pepper, Turmeric, Chillies, Ginger & Corriander. The trend indicates that the prices of spices shot up during the year 1987 and remained at abnormally high level till the end of 1988. However, with the improvement in production, of spices, except black pepper prices during the 1989 have somewhat eased.

(d) and (e) There does not appear to have been, shift from cultivation of major spices to other crops in the recent past.