

Downgrading of Railway Stations in Kerala

1839. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any railway station in the Palghat district under the Madurai division of Southern Railway has been downgraded to a flat station;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) how many such stations have been downgraded in Kerala so far during the past three years; and

(d) whether the Government would reconsider the decision to downgrade the station in Palghat district?

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

(b) For the reasons of economy.

(c) Three.

(d) At present this decision is not being reconsidered.

Railway Stations in Palghat Division

1840. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop further the railway stations in the Palghat Division; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Improvements to stations, including remodeling of station buildings, is a continuous process and the same is done on a need-based programme, commensurate with the availability of funds.

Overbridges at Level Crossings near Palghat Railway Station

1841. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether requests have been received for the construction of overbridges at the important level crossings near the Palghat station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that these level crossings cause serious traffic blockade; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A few representations for construction of road overbridges in replacement of two level crossings near Palghat Station have been received.

(c) No, Sir. However, some hold up of the road traffic at the level crossings during the passing of trains is unavoidable.

(d) The Railway can consider proposals for road overbridges at these locations after they are sponsored by the State Government duly consenting to bear the cost, as per rules.