

conversion of MG line from Madurai-Tirunelveli/Tuticorin has been completed and the survey report is under examination. According to the survey report the cost of construction of the line will be about Rs. 42.86 crores.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of Beedi and Cigar Worker's Act

2037. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state how many State Governments have implemented the Beedi and Cigar Worker's (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): According to the information available, the Act is being implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Goa, Daman & Diu.

Moothakunnam-Kottapuram Bridge

2038. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the construction of Moothakunnam-Kottapuram bridge in National Highway No. 17 of Kerala; and

(b) when the work expected is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) The construction of Moothakunnam-Kottapuram bridge across Periyar river on National Highway-17 in Kerala was sanctioned in December, 1979. The State Government of Kerala are finalising the Notice Inviting Tender papers and the tender notice is expected to be issued soon.

(b) After commencement, the construction of the bridge is likely to take four years.

Molestation and harassment by unauthorized male occupants in Ladies Compartment

2039. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received complaints from the lady passengers travelling by local trains in Bombay regarding their molestation and harassment by unauthorised male occupants in the ladies compartments or bogies meant for lady passengers only;

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking to stop the recurrence of such incidents; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to locate and punish the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, The complaints were in respect of harassment and not molestation.

(b) and (c). Surprise raids are conducted regularly by Special Squads to eradicate this nuisance. Lady Government Railway Police constables are also travelling in ladies compartments during peak hours for providing protection to lady passengers. A regular announcement, "Travelling by male passengers in ladies compartment is not only anti-social but also is an offence punishable under Indian Railway Act." is being made on the public address system at all the stations on the suburban section. During 1979-80, in all 13603 persons were arrested and prosecuted under the Indian Railway Act.

Inter-State road linking

2040. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether important inter-state road linking Bhadarwah in Jammu to Chamba in Himachal Pradesh has been under construction for several years; and