

has initiated a proposal for construction of a new road-over bridge by the side of the existing road-over bridge, to be undertaken by the Railways on 'Deposit terms.'

(c) As the proposal for the work is in the initial stage, no target time for its completion has been fixed so far.

Rail Line Between Panvel Khopoli and Karjat

833. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey was carried out to have a railway link between Panvel Khopoli and Karjat around Bombay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) and (b). Survey for a New BG line from Panvel to Karjat has been ordered during 1990-91 at a cost of Rs. 2.20 lakhs.

Import of Luxury Cars by Air India

834. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India imported some Luxury Cars sometime back; if so, the number thereof and the foreign exchange involved;

(b) the reasons for such import; and

(c) whether he proposes to re-examine the deal and also considers some more profitable use being made of these cars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Air

India purchased two Toyota Cars in 1986 at an expenditure of Rs. 2.55 lakhs (Japanese Yen 4.23 million) for transportation of VIPs/ CIPs. These cars were purchased as replacement for old Mercedes Benz Cars.

(d) Does not arise.

Air India Projects for Loaders/Transporters

835. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India conceived a Rs. 12 crore project for loaders/transporters machinery sometime back to improve the existing set up;

(b) if so, its foreign exchange component and its utility and at which of the international airports it was planned to be installed;

(c) whether the Government propose to examine the viability of this project in the context of the present acute financial stringency and the fall in Air India's Gulf traffic; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The initial cost of the project is approximately Rs. 1.2 crores for importing some units in fully assembled condition. Later, it is proposed to make payment in rupees to parties who undertake phased manufacture of these units. These equipment will be located at Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Trivandrum airports.

(c) and (d). The equipment presently utilised for ground-handling of aircraft have become old and outlived their utility. Therefore, replacement of these units is essential.