

state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert metre gauge into broad gauge from Secunderabad to Guntkal ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) :** (a) and (b). Preliminary Engineering cum-Traffic Survey for parallel B.G. line from Guntakal to Kurnool town alongwith conversion from Dornachallam to Guntur has been taken up to determine estimated cost, anticipated growth in traffic and financial remunerativeness of the project. Another Survey for parallel B.G. line from Kurnool to Secunderabad has also been approved.

#### Vayudoot Services in West Bengal

805. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have explored the possibility of introducing Vayudoot Services in some important district centres and tourist spots in West Bengal, such as Digha, Jalpaiguri, Malda etc.

(b) if so, the results thereof ;

(c) if not, whether Government will consider such proposals ; and

(d) if so, when ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) :** (a) to (b). Yes, Sir. The results of the traffic survey of Malda, West Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri conducted by Vayudoot reveal that there would not be adequate traffic to operate an economically viable air service to these stations.

#### Payment of dues to Calcutta Municipal Corporation

806. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of money is lying as dues on rent

and other heads to the Howrah Municipal Corporation for a long time ;

(b) if so, what is the amount ;

(c) whether Government have arranged to pay the dues ; and

(d) if so, when those will be paid ?

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) :** (a) and (b). Dues of land rent since 1983 are outstanding on account of claim at enhanced rates. The matter is under correspondence. As regards other heads, Mayor Howrah Municipal Corporation has claimed service charges against Eastern and South Eastern Railways amounting to Rs. 28,26,730.88 and Rs. 7,76,489.96 respectively.

(c) In the case of Eastern Railway, Bills of service charges from 1969-70 onwards have not been received from the Corporation due to dispute between the Eastern Railway and Howrah Municipal Corporation. In the case of South Eastern Railway, Howrah Municipal Corporation has been asked to furnish the detailed particulars of calculations of service charges.

(d) Charges will be paid as soon as the issues are settled.

#### Avallability of Sahitya Akademi Books

807. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry knows that the English translations of Manik Bandyopadhyay's "The Puppets' Tale" and "The Boatman of Padma" both published by the Sahitya Akademi are out of print since long back ;

(b) whether there is any plan to reprint these books soon ;

(c) if so, when and the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) The Sahitya Akademi has published the English translation entitled "The Puppets' Tale" of Sri Manik Bandyopadhyaya's Bengali novel 'Putul Nacher Itikatha' and the book is available in the market; the Akademi has not published "The Boatman of Padma".

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

**Arrangements for Speedy Bookings and Transport of Betel-Leaf.**

808. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what arrangements the Railways have made to facilitate speedy bookings and transport of betel-leaf ;

(b) which are the main loading and unloading Railway stations handling betel-

leaf ; and

(c) what amount do the Indian Railways earn on bookings and transportation of betel-leaf ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Betel leaves as and when offered are accepted for booking and are despatched by brake vans of first available Mail/Express or Sectional passenger trains. To further regulate the loading of this traffic, specific quotas have been earmarked for certain stations for loading by certain trains.

(b) The names of the main loading and unloading Railway Stations handling betel-leaf traffic, Railway-wise, have been shown in the statement attached.

(c) Commodity-wise earnings for all the commodities are not maintained and betel leaf commodity is one of such commodities for which no separate figures of earnings are available.

**Statement**

*Statement Showing Main Betel Leaf Loading and Unloading Stations on the Indian Railways.*

Railway	Main loading Stations	Main unloading Stations
1	2	3
Central	Dadar, Pune, Harpalpur, Antri, Mahoba, Lalitpur, Jakhlon, Maihar, Sohagpur.	Bombay V.T., Dadar, Itarsi, Hoshangabad, Bhopal, Jhansi, Gwalior, Agra Cantt., Mathura Jn., Katni, Sagar.
Southern	Rani Bennur, Savanur, Tirur, Calicut.	Bangalore City, Madras, Ernakulam, Ambur, Vaniyambadi, Kumbakonam, Tanjavur.
Northern	Varanasi, Delhi and, New Delhi	Amritsar, Jalandhar City Jn., Jalandhar Cantt. Jn., Ferozpur,