

section in view of the difficulties faced by the commuters ; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) Two pairs of through trains between Adra and Howrah and 8 local trains Up direction and 7 in Down between Midnapore and Howrah are available. Besides, a number of connecting services are available at Kharagpur in either direction. Introduction of additional services is presently not feasible due to constraints of line capacity and terminal facility at Howrah.

**Halt stations at Bhadutala and Metal Sahar (S.E.R.)**

664. SHRI MATILAL HANSDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening halt stations at Bhadutala and Metal Sahar in Adra-Kharagpur section of S.E. Railway ;

(b) whether the people of this section are demanding these halt stations since long ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Some representations have been received.

(c) It has been decided to open a Passenger Halt at Metyal Sahar. Opening of Passenger Halt at Bhadutala has not been agreed to as this area is well served by road services and the halt is not financially justified.

**Overbridge at Palpara**

665. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI :

SHRI R.P. DAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a long standing demand for an over-bridge at Palpara Railway Station of Eastern Railway in Sealdah-Krishnagar section ; and

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

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

(b) The work of providing a foot-over bridge at Palpara will be processed for inclusion in the Railway's future works programme, subject to availability of funds and comparative needs of other stations.

**Change of Departure of 952 Dn Express from Howrah**

666. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the existing departure time of 952 Dn Express from Howrah is causing considerable inconvenience to the Cochin bound passengers as the train reaches Cochin at night ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to change the departure time to 19.00 hrs. to enable the passengers bound for Cochin to avail local trains/buses and reach their destinations the same day, without spending the night at the railway station ;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (d) At present 952 Dn leaves Howrah at 22.30 hrs. and arrives Cochin at 18.40 hrs. which is a convenient time. Its earlier departure from Howrah is, however, not feasible at present due to operational constraints. However, passengers desirous of reaching Cochin early can avail 141 Coromandal Express leaving Howrah at 15.15 hrs. and reaching Madras at 17.50 hrs. and then take connecting 41 Cochin Express reaching Cochin at 09.20 hrs.