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kulam-Alleppey to Kayankulam —
Final Location Survey.

3. Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a new M.G. line between Chitradurg and Rayadurg.

**Conversion of Viramgam—Okha-Porbandar
Railway Line**

286. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in regard to the conversion of Viramgam-Okha-Porbandar Railway line from M.G. to B.G. ;

(b) when this work is likely to be completed ;

(c) what was the scheduled time fixed for completion of the said project ;

(d) what are the main reasons for delaying in the work ; and

(e) the details of the extra costs incurred on it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (e). The entire gauge conversion work between Viramgam-Okha-Porbandar has since been completed and the section opened to traffic except for some minor residual works which are in progress. First phase of the conversion between Viramgam-Hapa was opened in June '80, while the second and final phase in April '84. This work was progressed according to the availability of resources. No firm target for its opening could be fixed due to uncertainty about availability of funds.

**Indian Oil Tanker Hit by Missiles in
the Gulf Area**

287. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an oil tanker belonging to India was hit by missiles somewhere in the Gulf area recently ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the country which attacked the tanker has been identified and the matter taken up with the concerned Government ; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 25.12. 1984 M.T. Kanchenjunga while en route from Ras Tanura (Saudi Arabia) to Vadinar Oil Terminal (Gulf of Kutch) was attacked by an aircraft about 15 miles South of Shah Allum Shoal. The ship suffered damages.

(c) and (d). The matter was taken up immediately with the Iranian Government through our Ambassador in Iran and with the Iranian Ambassador in New Delhi to express our deep anxiety at the attack of military planes on Indian ships in the Gulf.

The Iranian authorities have been silent regarding the allegations in the Indian and international press concerning the involvement of their military planes in the attack on our ships.

It is hoped that such wanton attacks on our ships in the Gulf will not recur in the future.

Sex Education in School Curriculum

288. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the desirability of introducing sex education in the school curriculum has been considered ;

(b) if so, the factors for and against the same and the reaction of Government there-
to ;