

Goa served by Meter Gauge

1766. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Railways do not play much role in the economy of the territory of Goa largely because they are served only by a meter gauge line in that area,

(b) whether there is a demand of the people of Margo (Goa) for the construction of an over bridge the absence of which causes great difficulties to the people and traffic in that town, and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to meet these demands of the people of Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHLO NARAIN) (i) Surveys for conversion of MARGO LONDA SECTION of the magao and Alvaner-Dandeli sections from MG to BG have been completed. The project has been found to be unremunerative. In view of the limited traffic prospects and paucity of resources, it is not proposed to take up this project at present.

(b) No representation from public has been received by the Railway in this regard.

(c) Further consideration to the proposal for conversion of MG line to BG, referred to at (a) above will be given as soon as the resource position improves. Regarding construction of a road overbridge at Goa referred to at (b) above, the Railway will give due consideration as and when a firm proposal is received from the Goa administration, together with an undertaking to bear the cost as per extent rules.

Issue of Tickets for Geetanjali Express

1767 SHRI VASANT SATHE Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether for Geetanjali Superfast Express no tickets can be issued

from Bombay to Akola and vice-versa—although the express halts at Akola—because the distance between Akola to Bombay is 584 k.m.—just short of 16 km minimum prescribed for such trains,

(b) whether Government would in the public interest, modify the rules suitably and reduce it to the level of 400 500 km and

(c) whether Government have received representation to this effect and the reaction of Government thereto and decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) and (b) 59 Dn/60 Up Geetanjali Superfast express have been introduced primarily for the long distance passengers travelling between Bombay and Howrah. In order to encourage short distance travel on this train a distance restriction has been imposed on this train as other trains are available on this route for such passengers.

A quota of five second class sleeper berths and five second class seats, has been set aside on 59 Dn Geetanjali Express from Akola towards Howrah subject to a distance restriction of 600 kms. To the extent of five second class sleeper berths and five second class seats passengers can be booked from Bombay to Akola in relaxation of the distance restriction of 600 kms.

In the up direction on the 60 Up Geetanjali Express, tickets are issued at Akola for Bombay to the extent room is available on the train in relaxation of the distance restriction of 600 kms.

(c) No

Preparation of Petroleum Profile with Rumanian aid

1768 SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Petroleum profile, to identify and know the crude reserves in India, both