

affected the punctuality of Railways throughout the country specially in Danapur Division of Eastern Railways,

(b) if so details of such thefts and chain pulling during the last one year, and

(c) action taken against the thieves and chain pullers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHFO NARAIN) (a) Theft of telephone cables and unauthorised alarm chain pulling on the Indian Railways including Danapur Division of Eastern Railway has affected the punctual running of trams

(b) During 1977-78 there were 988 cases of cable theft, and 98 499 incidents of unauthorised alarm chain pulling on the railways

(c) The drives to combat thefts of cables and the menace of unauthorised pulling of alarm chain by anti social elements have been intensified with the cooperation of local civil and police authorities. Close liaison is being maintained with the State Governments to curb the activities of these anti social elements

Railway Income Out of Sale of Hill Station Tickets

3238 SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is not a fact that income of railways through sale of tickets for hill stations during the current summer season was less than compared to last seasons

(b) if so, the total income in the years 1976-77 1977-78 and 1978 79 upto June, 1978,

(c) whether it is not a fact that inflow of passengers was hit by the introduction of prohibition in some of the hill stations, and

(d) if so, his reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the Zonal Railways and will be laid on the table of the House

Railway Line in Murbad Taluk of Maharashtra

3239 SHRI R K MHALGI Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the survey has been conducted for the construction of Railway line in the Taluk of Murbad (Distt Thana, Maharashtra),

(b) if so when and with what result,

(c) whether Railway Ministry have taken any decision on the said survey report if so when and with what result,

(d) whether it is a fact that the Murbad Taluk is one of the backward areas of Thana District and whether Kalvan junction on Central Railway is only about twenty miles from Murbad—a Taluk place and

(e) if so the difficulties to construct the rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) to (e) Yes An engineering cum traffic survey for a new railway line from Kalyan to Ahmednagar was carried out in 1969 70 with a view to develop additional line capacity from Bombay across the Ghats. Murbad is 314 kms away from Kalyan on this alignment The survey revealed that it would be cheaper and operationally more advantageous to develop the capacity on the existing Northeast and Southeast Ghat lines instead of constructing a new line between Kalyan and Ahmednagar