

Additional Bogie to Mahalaxmi Express

8772. SHRI R. S. MANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional one bogie of 1st class and two bogies of 2nd class will be attached to Mahalaxmi Express leaving Kolhapur to Bombay;

(b) if so, from what date;

(c) whether out agency at Ichulkaranji would meet the demand of reservation of tickets of Mahalaxmi; and

(d) if so, from what date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). The issue of augmenting loads of 303/304 Kolhapur-Bombay Mahalaxmi Express is linked up with availability of platform of adequate length at Bombay VT. There is also the problem of adequate maintenance facilities, for which action has been taken to provide additional facilities at Mazagaon which is in progress. When these additional facilities become available augmenting the loads of 303/304 Mahalaxmi Express, along with similar other demands will be duly considered.

(c) There has been no representation from public for booking of passenger traffic from Ichulkaranji Out-Agency. It is, therefore, not open for passenger traffic.

(d) Does not arise.

Outlay Proposal for conversion of State Highways into National Highways

8773. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the outlay proposal for conversion of State highways into National

Highways in the light of the persistent demands from the State Government;

(b) whether Government have received a proposal from the State Government for diversion of National Highway passing through Akola town, if so, details thereof with estimated cost of the proposal; and

(c) the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) Due to financial constraints and other priority considerations the Government are unable to carry out any additions to the National Highway system.

(b) and (c). The 13.5 kms. long Akola bypass on the Dhulo-Nagpur Road, National Highway No. 6 in Maharashtra is estimated to cost Rs. 1.50 crores inclusive of a bridge across the river Morna. The constraint of resources and the low priority accorded to bypasses are not likely to permit sanctioning of the bypass in the 1978-83 Plan period.

Demands of Railway Porters

8774. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Porters, Vendors and Bearers' National Federation in its 8th All India Conference recently held at New Delhi passed some important resolutions and urged the Railway Ministry to consider and accept their demands;

(b) if so, furnish important details of the main demands made by them in their financial implication and the reaction of Government thereto and details of decisions taken so far and proposals under consideration;

(c) when were the porters' rates revised last and the action taken/proposed to revise them;