

Railway station at Chikhaloli

2205. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from the Sarpanch of Chikhaloli Gram Panchayat (Distt. Thane, Maharashtra) on or around 17-7-80 demanding a railway station at Chikhaloli on Bombay-Pune section;

(b) what are the salient points mentioned in support of the demand in the said representation; and

(c) the decision which Government have taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). No such representation was received for a railway station at Chikhaloli. However, this proposal was examined earlier and was not found financially justified.

Committee for making long term projection for acquisition of ships

2206. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Transport has been appointed for making a long term projection for acquisition of ships on a realistic basis consistent with trade requirements and if so, when;

(b) whether any recommendation was made by the National Shipping Board for appointment of such committee and reasons for appointment of such committee and terms of reference to the committee;

(c) whether report of the committee has been received and if so, what are the recommendations; and

(d) if not, when the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEREN-

DRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee was appointed on 15-9-1980.

(b) The Director General (Shipping) suggested at the meeting of the National Shipping Board held on 17-4-1979 setting up of a high level committee for making long-term projections for acquisition of ships on a realistic basis. The Committee has been set up to formulate a strategy for the development of shipping in the Eighties vis-a-vis the trade requirement etc. The terms of reference of the Committee are as per Statement.

(c) and (d). The Committee is likely to submit the report in a month's time.

Statement

Subject—Setting up of a Committee to formulate strategy for the Eighties for the development of Shipping and acquisition of additional tonnage.

Government attach considerable importance to the development of shipping and its national tonnage. Over a period of years, the country has acquired sizeable tonnage consisting of different types of vessels, capacities etc. The Ministry of Shipping and Transport has given certain projections regarding the acquisition of tonnage during the Sixth Plan period. However Committee, National Transport Policy Committee and other bodies have laid stress on the need to strengthen and develop national shipping. Any such expansion has necessarily to be related to the trade pattern, the traffic, the existing liner and bulk trade etc. All these call for a coordinated approach with proper projections for acquisition of ships indicating their size, type etc. keeping in view the possible changes in the pattern of trade and commerce and other relevant factors instead of merely buying ships to add to the national tonnage. This Plan, in short, should spell out the strategy for the Eighties in respect of the acquisition of additional shipping tonnage.