

(c) Foreign Exchange to the tune of Rs. 37.5 crores approximately per annum at current prices is expected to be saved.

(d) Does not arise.

Speeding up of Trains

5221. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether the speeding up of the trains is the accepted programme of the Railway Administration ;

(b) if so, the names of the trains (alongwith the stations between which they are running) which have been speeded up during the last five years including the current financial year and the time by which each one of them has been speeded up ;

(c) if so, whether there are any trains which have been slowed down especially on the Northern Railways; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and whether they would also be speeded up again ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :

(a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Short Distance Railway lines in Karnataka

5222. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway has sanctioned survey for

three short distance railway lines in Karnataka region during the current financial year ;

(b) if so, what are the new lines likely to be surveyed and areas that will be covered ;

(c) When all the three new railway lines will be completed ;

(d) total amount that has been sanctioned and will be provided for the same ;

(e) whether the proposal of constructing new railway lines have been slashed down to only these three ; and

(f) what are the reasons for not taking up all the new railway lines that the State Government had asked for ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :

(a) No.

(b) to (d). Do not arise. However a survey for construction of a line between Chitradurg (Karnataka) and Rayadurg (Andhra Pradesh) is in progress. Cost of the survey would be Rs. 3.96 lakhs. A decision for construction of this line can be taken only after the survey is completed.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Construction of a new railway line can be considered only after a survey is conducted for such a line and the project is found to be remunerative and subject to availability of resources.

Meeting of Foreign Secretaries of South Asian Countries

5223. SHRI B.V. DESAI : SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :