

(a) whether it is a fact that Ahmedabad-Howrah train has been suddenly discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that the passengers are put to great difficulty due to this cancellation of train and cancellation of their reservation; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to resume this train and when it will be resumed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. The train is running.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Conversion of Bhavnagar-Surendra Nagar Line

1997. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI:

SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert rail line from Bhavnagar to Surendranagar (167 Km.) in Western Railway from N.G. into B.G.; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Surendranagar-Bhavnagar section forms part of the larger M.G. system and if this section is converted to B.G., the entire M.G. system in Kutch will get isolated, while it is operationally necessary to maintain a through M.G. link.

(b) (i) Due to shortage of funds for works.

(ii) Not considered operationally necessary at this stage.

Erosion of Adjoining Coast due to Expansion of Madras Port

1998. DR. A. KALANIDHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expansion of Madras Port is causing erosion of adjoining coast in Madras city; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to arrest the erosion and rehabilitate the affected families?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Coastal area on the north side of Madras Harbour is subject to erosion, depending upon the severity of monsoon. Construction of Fisheries Harbour north of the main harbour has to a certain extent accentuated this problem.

(b) Government of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for providing protective measures against sea erosion. Part of the work has already been completed and the pattern of erosion is being closely monitored. Tamil Nadu Government is also conducting Model studies as Poondi Research Station for combating the erosion problem.

The affected families were rehabilitated in tenements constructed by the Slum Clearance Board and were also given loans by the Tamil Nadu Government for purchase of lands through Cooperative societies.

Declaration of East Coast Road between Madras and Rameshwaram as National Highway

1999. DR. A. KALANIDHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare East coast road from Madras to Rameshwaram as National Highway in view of its strategic position;