

(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;

- (b) if so, when it will be done; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) to (c) Owing to financial constraints, Government of India are unable to declare any road as a National Highway at present, and this applies to the East Coast Road also. However, with a view to helping the State Government in the development of this road for meeting the needs of the traffic, financial assistance amounting to about Rs. 3.00 crores was provided for the construction of a missing road link and bridges on the road in the 4th and 5th Plan under the Central Aid Programme of State roads of inter-State or economic importance and from the Central Road Fund.

Location of the Proposed C.I.S.F. Barracks

2000. DR. A. KALANIDHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is difference of opinion in locating the proposed C.I.S.F. barracks in Madras Port Trust area;

(b) if so, what is the final decision taken in this matter; and

(c) if not, whether it is proposed to locate the C.I.S.F. barracks outside the Madras Port Trust area to avoid congestion?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c) Originally it was proposed to construct the C.I.S.F. barracks at Panamarathotti, which is situated about four Kms. north of the main entrance of the Harbour. However, as some delay was anticipated in acquiring this land from the Navy, it was decided to locate the C.I.S.F. barracks within the port premises adjacent to the new workshop. The construction work is

in progress. The location of barracks inside the Port area will not in any way contribute to congestion in the Port.

Modernisation of Central Medical Stores, Madras

2001. DR. A. KALANIDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the aim in functioning Central Medical Stores at Madras City;

(b) whether there is any proposal to modernise the Central Medical Store at Madras, to meet the growing need for standard and quality drugs of Central and State Government hospitals and dispensaries;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) The main functions of the Government Medical Store Depot at Madras are:

(1) to procure and supply medicines, surgical equipments and other medical stores required by the hospitals and dispensaries, etc. run by the Central Government, State Governments/U.Ts. and local bodies in that region;

(2) receipt, storage and distribution of supplies of drugs and allied stores received from International agencies such as W.H.O., UNICEF, USAID, etc. under various agreements in that region;

(3) Storage and issue of stores under various National Health and Family Welfare Programme;

(4) meeting emergency requirements of life saving drugs during national calamities.

(b) There is no such proposal but quality control measures are being tightened up in all Medical Stores Depots.