

Calcutta Metro Rail

908. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of Metro rail in Calcutta is being further delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) by when it will be completed and opened for traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Subject to availability of resources the project is scheduled to be opened as under:—

Esplanade—Bhowanipur

—middle of 1984.

Dum Dum—Belgachia

—end of 1984.

Bhowanipur—Tollygunje

—end of 1985.

Belgachia—Esplanade

—end of 1987.

**Shipping Services Between Madras
And Port Blair**

909. SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shipping services (passenger transport) from Madras to Port Blair and vice versa are in a very bad shape as they are neither running regularly and punctually nor the service on board is at all satisfactory;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the ship M.V. Andamans leaving Port Blair on 6th January, 1984 the passengers were virtually starved as no dinner was served and on next days also because of the strike of the staff, no food was served in time and only at very odd hours some food was

served in time and only at a very odd hours some food was served against exorbitant rates i.e. Rs. 34/65 per day; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in these matters and also to increase the frequency of the above services?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) The sailings for the shipping services between Madras and Port Blair are drawn up by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration and the SCI adhere to the schedules drawn up by the A & N Administration, as far as possible. The sailing timings from Madras to Port Blair and vice versa are normally maintained.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected.

**Development Plan of the National
Waterways from Haldia to
Allahabad**

910. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the details of the plan for development of the National Waterways from Haldia to Allahabad have been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) what are the details of the first phase of the programme and when will it be taken up; and

(b) what is the total amount needed for its completion and what amount will be required to complete the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) to (d) In the first phase of development of the National Waterway from Haldia to Allahabad, a scheme costing Rs. 189.50 lakhs has been sanctioned in March; 1983 for providing infrastructural facilities in the Farakka-