

Manned level crossing at Korichirai between Murukkumpuzha and Kaniyapuram (Southern Railway) in Kerala)

7397. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation to the necessity of a manned level crossing at Karichirai between Murukkumpuzha and Kaniyapuram in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). Request from Kerala State Government has been received by the Southern Railway for provision of a new manned level crossing at Km. 807/13-14 at Pallipuram-Karichara Road between Murukkumpuzha and Kaniyapuram stations. The State Government has been requested to deposit Rs. 2,000 for preparation of plans and estimates as required under the extant procedure. Further action will be taken by the Railway on receipt of this amount.

Representation from Railway Porters Association Trichur

7398. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Railway Porters Association, Trichur, for the monthly wage of Rs. 50 and other leave facilities ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet the demand so far ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) A representation was received from Trichur Railway Porters Union, requesting *inter-alia* for fixing monthly wage of Rs. 50 for each licensed porter. There is no mention of leave facilities in the representation.

(b) Since licensed porters are not Railway employees, the question of fixing

their wages or granting them leave does not arise.

Facilities at Varkala Station on Southern Railway

7399. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware that there are no facilities at Varkala Railway Station on the Southern Railway, which is a pilgrim centre;

(b) whether any representation has been received to construct a new Railway Station at Varkala ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Varkala station has already been provided with the following amenities, which are considered adequate for the present level of passenger traffic offering there : (i) Passenger latrines (ii) Waiting hall, (iii) Passenger shelter, (iv) Raised platform of which a 6' strip is sheltered, (v) Modern type spacious new waiting hall measuring 63'x 18' (vi) Upper class waiting rooms, 20' x 12' for Gents and 12' x 12' for Ladies, (vii) a fenced circulating area in front of the station building with a taxi stand and a park.

(b) Yes.

(c) Since the present building with a sound condition and is provided with the requisite amenities, the question of constructing a new station building, does not arise.

Inclusion of Cuddapah District in backward area for development

7400. SHRI ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cuddapah, a backward and chronically drought affected District of Rayalaseema area, Andhra Pradesh has not been included in the list of those Districts eligible for cheap credit facilities for industrial development, if so, the reasons therefor ;