

(b) if so, when it is likely to start functioning;

(c) whether any enquiry team has visited Vengara; and

(d) if so, its findings ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

(d) The traffic anticipated to be dealt with does not justify opening of proposed halt.

Export of Rubber

2178. **SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for exporting rubber to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c). Some countries including G. D. R. have indicated keen interest in purchasing Natural Rubber from India. The proposals are under active consideration by both parties.

Doubling of Ernakulam-Shoranur Railway Line

2179. **SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any plan to double the Ernakulam-Shoranur Railway line;

(b) if so, the main points thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the Kerala Government with regard to this; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) On the 108 km. long Ernakulam-Shoranur section, the work on 20 km. doubling between Alwaye and Ernakulam is in progress. With regard to doubling the line between Alwaye and Shoranur, traffic survey has been conducted and the survey report is under examination. Decision as to what portions of the line require doubling would be taken after the survey report is examined.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Conversion of Bangalore-Guntakal Line into Broad Gauge

2180. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Bangalore-Guntakal line into broad gauge on a priority basis; and

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal will be given effect to ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). The proposal is under active consideration and a decision is expected to be taken very shortly.

Import of Raw Material for Engineering Industry

2181. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to import steel, aluminium, zinc and other metals this year