

[English]

Doubling of Bangalore-Mysore Railway Track

353. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any survey has been undertaken for doubling of railway track between Bangalore-Mysore;
- (b) if so, the estimated cost of the above proposal; and
- (c) the time by which the above work is likely to be started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The survey report revealed that the cost of the 138.49 kms. long line would be Rs. 240 crs. with negative rate of return. Due to unremunerative nature of the project and acute constraint of resources, it has not been found possible to consider the project for the present.

[Translation]

Shifting of Zonal Office from Mumbai to Ahmedabad

354. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have received a memorandum from the Government of Gujarat recently regarding different pending issues/cases of railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government of Gujarat and other organisations have requested the Union Government for shifting of Western Railway Zonal office from Mumbai to Ahmedabad; and
- (d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received for shifting the headquarters of Western Railway from Mumbai to Ahmedabad. Taking the various factors into consideration, the Government has decided to set up six new zonal Railway Offices at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Jaipur,

Bangalore and Jabalpur and eight new Divisional Offices including a Divisional Office at Ahmedabad.

Extension of Rail Line from Jamnagar to Badi Sadar

355. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from members of Parliament Nawanagar, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, various railway users of Jamnagar and other organisations for extension of rail line from Jamnagar to Badi Sadar;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the time by which the said line is likely to be extended ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no such place as Badi Sadar. The reference is perhaps to Badi Port. The proposed line will be a single user line for the port and can be taken up as a siding at the cost of the port authorities.

[English]

Attachment of Coaches

356. SHRI P. SANKARAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the reasons for cancelling one coach at Malabar, attached to Gandhi Dham Express and Rajkot Express; and
- (b) whether the Government are considering to re-introduce the coach, in view of the difficulty being experienced by Malabar passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Gandhidham and Rajkot Expresses have been converted into air-brake.

(b) It has been decided to divert Gandhidham and Rajkot Express via Konkan Railway route in 1998-99, which will provide the people of Malabar region with direct services to Gandhidham/Rajkot.

Encroachment of Government Land

357. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 5331 and 6014 on 11.09.1996 and 14.06.1997 regarding "Encroachment of Government land" and to state: