

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. However, a road over bridge in lieu of level crossing at Km. 1296/29-31 near Hathras Railway station has already been sanctioned in 1996-97 for which plan is under approval and estimate has been sanctioned.

(c) Does not arise. Target has not yet been fixed for road over bridge at Hathras.

Plight of Indian Navy

2336. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "But George, the Navy is barely afloat" published in "Economic Times" dated May 7, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether all the ships operating under Indian Navy are in dilapidated condition; and

(d) if so, the action being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two-third of Naval Warships is normally kept in operational readiness to permit maintenance to be undertaken. However, the Navy has contingency plans to accelerate maintenance so as to have more ships available, should the need arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Modernisation of the fleet and suitable additions to the fleet are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent the fleet from technological obsolescence and numerical reduction and to make them at par with contemporary fleets of other naval powers. Indian Navy is adequately prepared to meet any threat.

Setting up of Terminal at Veli

2337. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has taken any decision to set up terminal at Veli in Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways has acquired any land for the above purpose so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the terminal at Veli is likely to be set up?

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) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Behala Flying Training Club, Calcutta

2338. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the Behala Flying Club of Calcutta is lying virtually unused for several years;

(b) if so, whether the Government are prepared to take up a plan for the development of the airstrip of the club; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, sir. The airstrip is owned and maintained by the State Government.

[Translation]

Schemes for Construction of Toilets in Maharashtra

2339. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes cleared by the Government for constructing toilets in Maharashtra; and

(b) the names of the cities covered thereunder?