

Sholapur section of the South Central Railway are being submerged under the Upper Krishna Project scheme;

(b) if so, the area of railway line that is likely to be submerged and shifted;

(c) whether any new deviation alignment has been surveyed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and number of railway stations on Hubli-Sholapur line which are going to be affected and the point at which the new railway bridge will be constructed across Krishna river?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A length of about 20 Kms. of Railway line in two stretches will get submerged and will have to be shifted.

(c) and (d). No survey for this diversion has yet been carried out. The survey will be taken up after the Govt. of Mysore who have to bear the cost of the diversion agree to the estimate of the survey. Details regarding the places affected and the site of the new Krishna Bridge will be known only when the survey is completed.

LOSS DUE TO PILFERAGE OF COAL PURCHASED BY RAILWAYS

*705. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have estimated the loss suffered due to the pilferage of coal purchased by the Railways;

(b) whether the Railway Board are aware that liberal use of coal is made by the Railway staff and the Watch and Ward personnel have failed to check pilferage;

(c) whether the Railway Board are also aware that pilfered coal is sold in the market at 50 per cent of the normal price of coal; and

(d) the measures being taken or proposed to be taken to safeguard stocks of loco coal from thefts and misuse ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) It is not possible to correctly estimate the actual loss suffered by the Railways due to pilferage of coal.

(b) There have been instances of coal being pilfered by Railway staff. Arrangements also exist for Coal & Cinder being made available to Railway employees at reasonable rates. The R.P.F. also exercise vigilance and were able to arrest coal thieves as under :

Year	Arrests made		Total
	Outsiders	Rly. employees	
1965	5,149	544	5,693
1966	5,339	476	5,815
1967	5,740	542	6,282

(c) No.

(d) The following measures are being taken:—

1. R.P.F. staff is posted in most of the important sheds, coal stacks and dumps.
2. Coal Specials are escorted by R.P.F. in affected/vulnerable sections.
3. Unobtrusive watch is kept on habitual coal thieves/pilferers including on railway staff conniving at it.
4. Armed pickets and patrols have been detailed in important yards to guard against thefts from wagons standing in yards.
5. Stress is being laid on the verification of the antecedents of the labourers handling coal.
6. Stress is laid on the proper stacking of coal in running sheds.

ALUMINIUM SMELTER AND SHEET MILL.

*706. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have rejected the application of the Indian Aluminium Company seeking permission to borrow upto \$ 3 million from the International Finance Corporation for meeting the shortfall in the foreign exchange requirement for setting up a new aluminium smelter and a sheet mill;

(b) if so, on what grounds; and