

the Hon'ble Minister, in view of the seriousness of the disease, propose to set up a blood testing centre and monitoring centre at each district headquarters and the time by which these centres would be set up, and if not the reasons therefor?

Mr. SPEAKER : He has already said that it is for the State Government to do it.

[English]

PROF. R. R. PRAMANIK : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state :

(a) What are the reasons for not having the Government machinery for proper and adequate testing of all blood donors and all blood sellers and also for testing and screening of all bloods in all the Blood Banks all over the country for HIV infection where according to the experts the first epidemic of silent infection of HIV has already started in India.

(b) Whether you can assure the House right now that the Government will take all the necessary steps and measures immediately for such testing and screening of all the blood donors, all the blood sellers and all types of bloods in all the Blood Banks all over the country?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir, this is specifically written in the Act and Rules. What is requirement of the Blood Bank? What should the equipment and who will be manning this Blood Bank? All the requirements are there. I have already stated that we are in constant touch with the State Governments and we are requesting them to update the Blood Banks.

PROF. R. R. PRAMANIK : The answer is not given. Whether he is assuring the House?

Mr. SPEAKER : It is for the State Government to do it. Please understand it first.

### Doubling of Railway Line

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\* 42. PROF. K. V. THOMAS :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a final decision has been taken to hand over the construction of Shoranur Mangalore Railway line doubling work to the Konkan Railway Corporation ;

(b) if so, the details of the Project including the expected commencement of work and completion of the Project ;

(c) if not, the reasons for not handing over the Project to the Konkan Railway Corporation ;

(d) the estimated cost of the project and whether the corporation intends to float debentures for the same ; and

(e) the time by which the entire Railway Line from Mangalore to Bombay in the Konkan Railway is likely to become operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) to (e). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

(a) It has been decided to take up doubling of Kuttipuram-Calicut-Mangalore line alongwith construction of new BG rail link between Guruvayoor and Kuttipuram under BOLT (Build, Own, Lease, and Transfer) Scheme in which KRC can also participate. On completion of these works, it will serve the purpose of doubling between Shoranur and Mangalore via Trichur.

(b) The details of the project are as under :

Section	Length	Cost
Guruvayoor-Kuttipuram	36 kms.	Rs. 40 crs.
Kuttipuram-Calicut	56 kms.	Rs. 60 crs.
Calicut-Mangalore	221 kms.	Rs. 240 crs.

Preliminary arrangements, for taking up the work, including acquisition of land are in hand and the work would commence on contracts under the BOLT scheme are finalised. The time frame for completion of the project is expected to be 3 years from the date of commencement of work.

(c) Already covered in reply to part (a).

(d) The cost of the project is Rs. 340 crs. The manner of resource mobilisation will have to be decided by KRC if and when they get the contract for the work.

(e) The entire railway line from Mangalore to Bombay on the Konkan Railway is scheduled to become operational by 31.3.96.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS : From the Statement of the Minister it has been said that the Mangalore-Bombay line will become operational by 31.03.1996. My congratulations to the Railway Ministry and to the Konkan Railway Corporation for implementing this scheme in a time - frame.

From the point of view of the State of Kerala, this Konkan Railway will be helpful if only the doubling of railway line is

undertaken from Shoranur to Mangalore. My question to the hon. Minister is whether a time-frame project has been formulated for doubling of the railway line from Shoranur to Mangalore so that Kerala would be benefited by the Konkan Railway project.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : We are keen to take up this project at the earliest, and the time-frame which has been fixed for completion of this project is three years.

The Kuttipuram-Calicut line is already underway. For Calicut-Mangalore line also land acquisition is going on and on Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor section also the work will start soon. So we envisage that this project would be completed in three years and we almost get the benefit of Konkan Railway coming upto Mangalore.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Sir, the hon. Minister has very intelligently said that once the project starts, it will take three years. It is also said that it will come under BOLT, i.e., Built own Lease Transfer Scheme. So my question to the hon. Minister is, when will he start the project?

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, the project will start immediately. You are aware that for Kuttipuram-Calicut line, land acquisition papers have already been submitted to the State Government. The tenders papers and prerequisite for BOLT bids are ready and the bids will be invited in December of 1995. So three years would be three years, that is what we envisage from December 1995.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Sir, Mangalore-Shoranur line assumes paramount importance from the point of view of overall development of Kerala in general and backward districts of Malabar in particular. It has been a persistent demand of the people of this region to have doubling of the line at the earliest. I compliment the hon. Railway Minister for that.

It appears from the reply of the hon. Minister that the Government is bent upon giving this project to private parties under the BOLT Scheme. Recently, the Chairman of the Konkan Railway Corporation, while he was at Calicut, assured and had given a word to the people of Kerala that he was prepared to take up the project even without taking a single pie from the Railway Administration if the project is being cleared by Railway Administration. Under these circumstances, why is the Government reluctant to give clearance to the Konkan Railway Corporation to take up this project? What are the reasons for this?

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Sir, the scheme has been allotted under the BOLT Scheme and the Konkan Railway Corporation is free to take part in this BOLT tender. I would like

to say that though the Chairman of the Konkan Railway Corporation has given an offer, we will have to examine the offer because they already have got lot of financial liabilities. They required that if the Mangalore-Shoranur line is also given to them, they could lease out that line. So against that they would raise the money. Today, you are aware that even to complete the Konkan-Bombay line, which is our top priority, we are still short of funds. The Konkan Railway has not been able to raise Rs. 300 crore which they had committed to. But the position is that their bonds are not selling. So we have made short-term arrangements to give them loan. We have to check the question of legality and whether they have the capacity to raise the money. But in the meantime, we would be happy if they also make a bid under the BOLT Scheme.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the other doubling works which are taking place in the State of Kerala.

One of the lines in Quilon-Trivandrum section has already been sanctioned in the Budget and the work is going on on that line. But it is unfortunate to say that this work is going on at a very slow pace. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Railway Ministry will take up this matter and expedite the work so that new trains can come to the State of Kerala.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : I have just told you that the Kuttipuram-Calicut line is being doubled. The Calicut-Mangalore line is being doubled. The Kuttipuram-Guruvayoor line is being doubled. You have rightly said that the work on Quilon-Trivandrum line is going little slowly. We have already put an outlay of Rs. 50 crore in the Budget, but the work of land acquisition by the State Government is not going on at the pace at which we wanted it to be. The funds are available for the project and in case the land acquisition goes on at the speed which we wanted, we will complete it at much faster.

For earth work, big contracts have been entered into where the land is available. This being a populated area controlled blasting is required and so if you give us the land early, we will be able to move fast. We have already kept the budget for this. This is the other doubling Quilon-Trivandrum which is what I am talking about. The Kayakulam-Quilon doubling is also being completed on 31.01.1996 i.e. in the month of January, 1996.

#### Public Sector Undertakings

\* 43. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the PSUs which are topless or without a CMD or MD ;