

Copergaon-Shirdi Rail Line

2594. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laying of rail line from Copergaon to Shirdi in Maharashtra, a sacred, holy temple city for which budget was sanctioned in the past, was stopped, because the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple Trust refused to contribute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had sanctioned this project in the past for the convenience of the large number of devotees visiting Shirdi Temple; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. However, based on demands from public, including their elected representatives, the take off point has been changed from Copergaon to Punthamba.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Conversion of Viramgam-Mehsana-Patan Rail Tracks

2595. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been persistent demand from Gujarat and Rajasthan for converting the Rail tracks between Viramgam and Mehana, Mehana and Patan in W.R., Bhildi Jodhpur (N.R.), from meter gauge to broad gauge;

(b) whether preliminary survey has been done in this regard; and

(c) if so, by when the Railways would finalise these conversion projects?