

Sub-way for Trisoolam Metro-Railway Station at Chennai

2609. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to build a sub-way connecting the Trisoolam Metro-Railway Station and the Chennai Airport is under consideration;

(b) the impediments in executing the proposal; if not, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the agencies co-ordinating with the Railways in this scheme; and

(d) what is the total amount allocated for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no firm proposal as yet. National Highway Authority (Ministry of Surface Transport) and Airport Authority of India have to sponsor/approve the proposal and co-ordinate with the Railway in this scheme.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

MRTS in Chennai

2610. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) in Chennai, beyond Velacheri railway station;

(b) if so, upto which place it is likely to be extended;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to connect the MRTS line with the Railway stations at Chennai, connecting the train to other cities or towns; and

(d) by when the entire MRTS scheme in Chennai would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from Government of Tamil Nadu for extension of Chennai MRTS beyond Velacheri upto St. Thomas Mount.

(c) MRTS line is already connected to the other railway system at Chennai Beach. There is no proposal to provide any additional connection.

(d) MRTS Scheme in Chennai is being executed in a phased manner. At present phase-II from Thirumayilai to Velacheri is in progress. The execution of the proposal for phase III from Velacheri to St. Thomas Mount depends upon financial viability of the project, availability of resources and requisite clearances, so no target date is fixed.

Train between Kuppam and Bangalore

2611. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new daily train between Kuppam and Bangalore, leaving Kuppam at 8 A.M. and Bangalore at 5 P.M. in view of developmental activities in and around Kuppam in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) 6519/6520 Bangalore-Bangarapet Express (daily) has been extended to Jolarpettai via Kuppam from 1.7.2002. 6520 Express leaves Bangalore at 1730 Hours (5.30 P.M.). Introduction of additional train between Bangalore and Kuppam has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Transfers due to Bifurcation of Railways Zones

2612. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the number of personnel that would be required for seven new Railway Zones being created; and

(b) the number of persons who would be transferred / dislocated as a result of bifurcation of the existing Zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Around 1500 personnel would be required for each of the seven new Railway Zones being created.