

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued instructions to Vanaspati manufacturers to market vanaspati oil either in one kilo packs or in 16 Kg. tins only;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that by stopping sale of vanaspati oil in smaller packs of 2 Kgs. and 4 Kgs., the lower and middle class families would have to pay extra by purchasing more 1 Kg. packs; and

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw these instructions and allow manufacturers to pack this produce in 2 Kgs. and 4 Kgs. packs, if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Sale of vanaspati in 2 Kg. and 4 Kg. packs has not been stopped.

#### Konkan Coastal Railway

\*134. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of progress of the Konkan Coastal Railway;

(b) whether the coastal route is proposed to be extended upto Mangalore in Karnataka;

(c) whether it is a fact that the coastal railway has been given priority on account of the lack of other means of transport in that area; and

(d) by when this route is likely to be opened to traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) to (d) The construction of Apta-Roha (62 Kms.) new B.G. line has been taken up since 1978-79, as a first phase of the West Coast line from Apta to Mangalore, which is expected to be about 910 Kms. in length. The Apta-Pen (20-35 Kms.) section has since been com-

pleted and opened to traffic on 21-2-1983. Works are being executed on the Pen-Roha section (41.65 Kms.) and efforts are being made to complete and open the next phase between Pen and Nagothana (27 Kms.) during 1984-85.

Due to severe constraint of funds, there is at present no proposal for extending the line beyond Roha.

#### Non-availability of vanaspati and palm in small packages

\*135. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL:

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of vanaspati due to non-availability of oil;

(b) whether it is a fact that vanaspati and palm oil is being packed in 4Kg. tins and no smaller packages are available; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to make suitable small packings of vanaspati and palm oil available during festival seasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Except for some reports of localised shortage of bulk packs of certain brands, availability of vanaspati has been, by the large, satisfactory.

(b) and (c) Vanaspati is available in 1 Kg. flexible packs and 1, 2, 4 and 5 Kg. high density polythene packs as also in 2 Kg. and 4 Kg. tin packs. However imported oils including palm oil are being supplied in 15 Kg., 4 Kg., and 2 Kg. packs for sale through fair price shops against Ration Cards under the Public Distribution System.

#### Representations against Estate Officer N.F. Railway, Lumding

\*136. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of representations received against the Estate Officer,