

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of new broad gauge line from Kalyan to Ahmednagar via Malshej Ghat (204 km) was completed in year 2000. As per the survey, cost of construction of the line was assessed as Rs. 772 crore. Due to constraint of resources the proposal could not be considered earlier. A fresh survey has again been sanctioned in 2006-07 and report is yet to be received. Further consideration of the proposal would be feasible once survey is completed and results of the survey report are finalized.

Demand of running Hirakund Express on daily basis

1010. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the demand being raised for many years to run 8507/8508 Hirakund Express between Vishakhapatnam and Amritsar on daily basis;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and
- (c) the reasons for delay in fulfilling the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Increase in the frequency of 8507/8508 HiraKud Express from tri-weekly to daily has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational constraints including terminal constraints at Amritsar.

- (c) Does not arise.

Commercial utilization of surplus railway land

1011. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether proposal of Government for commercial utilization of surplus railway land excludes the possibility of reverting back those land to States;
- (b) if so, the specific details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Vacant railway land is required for Railways own developmental works such as doubling, gauge conversion, yard remodelling and traffic facility works, setting up of factories, freight corridors, etc.

Vacant land not required for Railways immediate future operational needs is put to alternative usage including commercial development, wherever feasible.

Sharing of cost of rail projects by States

1012. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: