

(c) whether in view of strategic importance of this rail link all-out war-footing efforts will be made to complete this gigantic work within six to eight years against proposed 10 years construction time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Survey for Bilaspur-Manali-Leh new rail line (497.95 km.) has been completed. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this new line has been estimated as Rs. 22,831 crore. The new line is not yet sanctioned.

(b) At present only Reconnaissance Engineering cum Traffic survey has been done. The detailed technical investigations will be done during final location survey.

(c) Does not arise.

Mumbai to Virar-Dahanu local rail line

†2419. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work of Mumbai to Virar-Dahanu local rail line has started again which was standstill for a long time;

(b) if so, when it was restarted and by when Virar-Dahanu rail line is likely to be operational; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The construction works for introduction of EMU service in Virar-Dahanu road section of Western Railway had progressed uninterrupted and now has been completed.

(b) and (c) The Virar-Dahanu section has been made fit for running EMUs and train services will be introduced on availability of rakes.

Complaints from Members of Parliament

‡2420. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints received by Railways from Members of Parliament during last two years, zone-wise;

(b) the number of complaints received against the officers of Indian Railway Traffic Services during last two years lodged by own subordinate staff/union;

(c) the details of aforementioned cadre officers against whom action has been taken on the basis of such complaints, name-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that officers transferred on complaints basis are not being relieved; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against such officers who are not relieving officers concerned?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Harassment of small catering licencees by IRCTC

†2421. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation has been harassing and displacing small catering licencees working at 'A', 'B' and 'C' category railway stations;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check this activity;

(c) whether Government is considering to exclude the catering operation from IRCTC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Catering Policy of the Indian Railways is presently under review.

Facilities to minorities in railway services

2422. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of concessions and facilities being given to the minorities in railway services;

(b) whether any complaints have been received in this regard during the last year and the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in the matter; and

(d) the steps being taken to publicise the concessions and facilities available to the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The details of concessions and facilities being given to the Minority Communities in Railways services are as under:—

(1) For Railway recruitments to examinations fee is required to be deposited by the candidates belonging to minority community, SC, ST, Women and economically backward class having annual family income of less than Rs. 50,000/-.

(2) No competitive examination shall be conducted on the days of Community festivals.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.