

heads owing to revised time-schedule; and

(b) whether considering the acute transportation problems in Calcutta Metropolitan area, the question of linking South section of Sealdah Division with the North section by utilising existing Railway line direct Goods train via Kankurgachi junction would be expeditiously examined pending a decision on Circular Railway?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Esplanade Tollyganj Section is to be commissioned by 1985 and the whole project by 1987.

(b) Original cost of the Project as sanctioned in 1972 was Rs. 140.27 crores. This was revised to Rs. 250.0 crores in 1974. Further revised cost at 1980 price level was estimated at Rs. 560 crores which may further escalate depending on general economic situation in the country.

(c) For connecting North section with South Section for passenger traffic, a feasibility survey has already been completed. The report is expected to be submitted soon.

Railway Link for Bajurighat

859. **PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government are aware of the urgent necessity for a Railway link for Bajurighat, headquarters of West Dinajpur district; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to relax commercial considerations from the point of view of public utility in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Perhaps the reference is to the proposed rail link from Eklakhi to Balurghat with a view to provide rail communication facilities to Balurghat a preliminary engineering cum traffic survey for the construction of a new BG railway line from Eklakhi to Balurghat (90 Kms.) has been sanctioned on 22-4-1982, as an out of turn work during the current financial year. The estimated cost of this survey is Rs. 11.72 lakhs. The survey is now well in progress. Further consideration to this project will be given after the survey is completed, reports examined from all angles, subject to availability of adequate funds for the purpose, and its clearance by the Planning Commission.

Suburban Railway service in Calcutta

860. **PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the chronically irregular suburban Railway services in Calcutta ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the services ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes.

(b) The punctuality performance of suburban train services in Calcutta (on Eastern Railway portion) has not been satisfactory for some time past mainly due to miscreant activities like disconnection of couplers

smuggling/theft of Overhead Equipments, assault on staff, law and order problems etc. Close liaison is being maintained with the State Government to curb such unlawful activities.

However, running of suburban services on the South Eastern Railway prortion is quite satisfactory.

Thefts and robberies in trains

861. SHRI SHRIDHAR
WASUDEO DHABE :
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what further steps are being taken for prevention of thefts and robberies in the trains ;

(b) what is the coordination between the Railways and the State Governments in the matter of investigation of robberies and thefts;

(c) the names of trains in which incidents of dacoity took place and the number of culprits traced during the last one year and prosecuted in the courts of law; and

(d) what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Maintenance of law and order being the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments, they are taking the following steps for prevention of thefts and robberies in trains :

(i) Almost all passenger carrying trains are being provided with armed escorts during night.

(ii) Beat patrolling of stations, platforms and waiting halls has been intensified.

(iii) Surveillance over criminals and known bad characters is being emphasised.

(iv) Checking of night trains by supervisory Police officers has been ordered.

(v) Police pickets have been deputed at vulnerable stations.

(vi) CID of the State Governments are providing special squads to assist in the investigation of important cases.

(b) The R.P.F. has no power in regard to the investigation in cases of thefts and robberies. The Government Railway Police working under the State Governments are responsible for the investigation of such cases. The RPF maintain close co-ordination with the Government Railway Police and extend all possible assistance as and when it is sought. They also share with Govt. Railway Police whatever criminal intelligence they have with them. Such intelligence helps in the investigation of cases.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Late Running of Super Fast Trains

862. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several fast and superfast trains have been, of late, running late; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) No. However, some trains do run late some-time on account of alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities, disconnection of