

The allotments made for the maintenance and repairs of National Highway in Karnataka have been progressively increasing over the years and during the current year so far an amount of Rs. 224.05 lakhs, which is an all-time high, has been allotted.

(d) Proposals have been received from the States, including Karnataka, for inclusion of certain roads under National Highway System. The question of taking over of any road in Karnataka as also in other States; will depend upon the provision that may be made for new additions to National Highway System in the 1980-85 Plan, which is still to be finalised, criteria laid down for the purpose and *inter se* priorities between various proposals from all States and quarters.

Raising of Kashmir issue in the Islamic Summit by Pakistan President

452. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan President raked up the Kashmir issue while addressing the 37 Motion Islamic summit on the 21st January, 1981;

(b) if so, whether India has pointed out to Pakistan that raising of such type of issues at the International forum is against the spirit of Simla agreement; and

(c) what further steps are being taken by Government to prevent such propaganda in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. His statement was made on the 26th January, 1981.

(b) and (c) Government have repeatedly impressed upon the Government of Pakistan that its attempts to raise the Kashmir question in various international fora constitute a violation of the Simla Agreement and have an adverse impact on the process of

normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan.

Representations regarding Bhavnagar. Mehguna Train (W. Railway)

453. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway authorities at Town SIHOR, Bhavnagar Para, (Gujarat) on the Western Railway and the Railway Board have received any resolutions and letters from SIHOR NAGAR PANCHAYAT (Bhavnagar Division) during 1980-81 in regard to Bhavnagar Mehguna train 27 UP and other Railway issues;

(b) if so, what are the details of such resolutions and letters; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Representations for restoration of 27/28 Bhavnagar-Mehasana Express have been received including from Sihor Nagar Panchayat. It has been examined in depth but not found feasible. With the conversion of Viramgam-Hapa section into BG, 27/28 Express had to be cancelled permanently. Prior to conversion of Viramgam-Hapa section into BG, 27/28 Express was providing overnight service between Bhavnagar and Mehasana. However, after the BG conversion this stream of traffic has not likely to be patronised as two transshipments would have been involved during inconvenient hours at Surendranagar and Viramgam. The train was therefore, cancelled.

Extension of Sihor-Palitana Trains up to Bhavnagar Para (W. Rly.)

454. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the engine of train running between Palitana and Sihor on Bhavnagar Divi-

sion in the Western Railway is sent to Bhavnagar Para for taking coal and for oiling and cleaning;

(b) whether representations have been received from Public Chambers of Commerce and other business organisations of PALITANA, SIHOR, BHAVNAGAR and surrounding areas to extend the said train upto Bhavnagar; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) 287/288 alongwith 285/286 train, on Sihor-Palitana section are running with steam engines and there is no light running of engines from Sihor to Bhavnagar. It would therefore not be feasible to extend these trains to Bhavnagar as requested.

Cancellation of Bhavnagar-Mehguna Train Nos. 27 and 28 of W. Ry.

455. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permanently cancelled train Nos. 27 and 28 between Bhavnagar and Mehguna;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that great hardship is caused to Government employees, Business community and other passengers of Surendra Nagar and Bhavnagar due to cancellation of the said train services;

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Chamber of Commerce and other Business Organisations have written to various Railway authorities at Bhavnagar Para and Railway Board in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details of the letters and memoranda and the action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) to (f) Representations for restoration of 27/28 Express have been received including from the Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bhavnagar and Surendra Nagar. These were examined and the position explained to the local representations. Prior to conversion of Viramgam-Hapa section into B.G., 27/28 Express was providing overnight service between Bhavnagar and Meh-sana. However, after the B.G. conversion this stream of traffic was not likely to be patronised as two trans-shipments were involved during inconvenient hours at Surendra Nagar and Viramgam. The train was, therefore, cancelled.

Cancellation of Trains on Bhavnagar Division

456. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of train services on Bhavnagar Division in Western Railway have been cancelled frequently;

(b) if so, the details of such trains and the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the said train services are likely to be restored;

(d) whether it is a fact that in January 1981 nearly 30 trains were cancelled in the above division without any prior notice;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Railway authorities at Bhavnagar Para and the General