

(granted after necessary approval of the Ministry of Labour has been obtained.

Government continuously reviews the procedures to further rationalise them and make them conducive to expeditious clearance of intending emigrants.

Commissioning of coastal Railway from Cochin to Kayankulam in Kerala

367. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made so far for the commissioning of coastal railway from Cochin to Kayankulam via Alleppey in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): Construction of Ernakulam Alleppey Broad Gauge line is already included in the Budget for 1979-80. However, extension of the line to Kayankulam is not being contemplated at present.

Maintenance of surgical equipments in the Hospitals

368. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO: SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a special organisation on all India basis to ensure that surgical equipments in the hospitals and elsewhere are not being rusted for lack of maintenance by technicians; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Work on the proposed Railway Division in Trivandrum

369. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased

to state what progress has been made in the construction of the proposed Railway Division in Trivandrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): A statement giving the requisite information is attached.

Statement

The decision on the formation of a new full-fledged broad gauge division on southern Railway with headquarters at Trivandrum had been taken a long time ago. Its implementation has, however, got delayed on question of defining its territorial jurisdiction, in view of a large-number of representations from various interests in North Malabar, Palghat and Cochin areas protesting vehemently against major changes in the existing Olavakkot Division and particularly against taking away of Mangalore Shoranur section. These strong feelings were sought to be assuaged by limiting the jurisdiction of the new division from Trivandrum to Shoranur only. But since this alternative considerably reduced the route kilometrage which would have made the division non-viable, it was decided to form, as a first step, a Transportation Division headed by Deputy Divisional Superintendent, having jurisdiction over the all broad gauge Shoranur Trivandrum Section and develop it further, in due course, as a full fledged division when enough additional broad gauge jurisdiction could be added to it to make it viable.

Unfortunately, the above scheme did not find favour with the people of Kerala. The State Government also stated that they would not be able to offer land free of cost is promised earlier unless a full-fledged division at Trivandrum was formed. In the changed background, the Chief Minister of Kerala was requested to reconcile the difference among various parties so as to evolve a suitable solution for the proposed Trivandrum Division.