

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum dated 22-3-78 from the ONGC Workmen's Association, Calcutta has been received through Shri Kalyan Roy and Shri Chitta Basu.

(b) The Memorandum has, inter alia, raised two points; one relating to the shifting of the headquarters of the Assam geological/geophysical field parties from Calcutta to Mezanga in Assam and the other about various aspects of exploration activities of the ONGC in West Bengal.

(c) The matter is being looked into.

Routing of Bikaner-Jaipur Express via Nagaur, Merta, Degana and Phulera

508. SHRI HARISHANKER BHABHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 237 Up and 238 Down Bikaner-Jaipur Express trains under Northern Railway were originally intended to run via Nagpur, Merta, Degana and Phulera;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for running the said trains via Ratangarh and Churu;

(c) whether it is a fact that at present there is no train running from Bikaner via Nagaur, Merta, Degana and Phulera; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to run any express train from Bikaner via Nagaur, Merta and Phulera?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) On representations from a large cross section of people at Bikaner,

Ratangarh and Churu areas, a detailed analysis of traffic was made which indicated that a large number of passengers would prefer to travel via Churu.

(c) Yes. However 95/96 Bikaner -Marwar Mail serves the passengers on Bikaner-Merta Road section.

(d) No. However, for the few passengers via Merta Road two coaches namely one composite first and second class and one second class, are running between Bikaner and Jaipur/ Agra Fort by 95/208 and 207/96 trains.

Change in timings of train services in the Bhavnagar area

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

(a) whether Government have received any representations from the Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce and other organisations protesting against the recent changes made in the timing of some mail/express trains in the Bhavnagar area as these changes have upset traffic to Botad, Surendranagar, Viramgam and Ahmedabad resulting in delays and missing of connected trains; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) The Secretary, Zawalad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Surendranagar had represented against the change in timings of 21 Up Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad Mail and 293 Up Bhavnagar-Viramgam Fast Passenger from 1-4-1978. These changes had earlier been made in response to the requests from Saurashtra Chamber of Commerce, Bhavnagar and the Hon. Member himself. In