

Cases of Robbery, Looting and Theft on Railways

522. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of robbery, looting and theft on Railways have increased during the last six months as compared to the number of such cases in the six months preceeding 1st April, 1977; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Inadequate service of local trains running between Poona and Lonavala.

523. SHRI VITHAL GADGIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Unions of industrial workers working in the Poona industrial complex have represented that the number of local trains running between Poona and Lonavala is inadequate; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the frequency of local trains in the Poona industrial complex?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from various Passenger Associations for augmenting the train services on Pune-Lonavala section. This section is, at present served by 11 pairs of locals and 7 pairs of through trains scheduled to stop at selected stations. Introduction of additional trains has not been found feasible due to lack of line capacity on this saturated section. However, with a view to in-

crease the commuter transport capacity, the feasibility of introducing higher capacity Electric Multiple Unit services is presently under examination, subject to availability of resources.

Completion of the Wani-Chanaka Railway Line

524. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: SHRI BAPURAOJI MAROTRAOJI DESHMUKH;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that work on the Wani—Chanaka railway line project is running behind schedule; and

(b) if so, what is the element of increase in the cost of the project as a result of the delay in its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) The 75.76 Km long Wani-Chanaka new rail link estimated to cost Rs. 5.29 crores was taken up for construction as a drought relief measure in 1973. It was to provide rail link for the proposed cement factory at Chanaka but the work on the factory is yet to be started. Construction work on the first 35 Kms. of the line is in progress. The overall progress is 11.97 per cent. A sum of Rs. 40 lakhs has been allotted for the project during the current year 1977-78.

(b) The estimate of the project has not been revised so far.

Conversion of Yavatmal-Murtizapur Railway Line

525. SHRI DEORAO PATIL:
SHRI BAPURAOJI MAROTRAOJI DESHMIKH;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any representation