

certain parts of the country. A fresh survey is proposed to be conducted.

Electrification between Madras and Vijaywada

*130. SHRI BEZAWADA PAPIREDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of electrification of rail track between Madras and Vijayawada;

(b) whether it is a fact that the programme is far behind the schedule because of inter-Zonal non-cooperation; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to constitute a single authority to achieve better progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI) (a) 20 per cent:

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of a Train between Khurja-Delhi

*131. SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th April 1975 and state:

(a) whether Government have since able to provide adequate terminal facilities at the respective stations to facilitate introduction of new trains for commuters between Khurja and Delhi/New Delhi; and

(b) if not, what alternative facilities Government purpose to provide to cater to the requirements of a large number of commuters on this section of the railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

The question as how to improve the quality and number of trains for clearing suburban traffic on various routes covering Khurja-Delhi-New Delhi section including assessment of facilities and impact requirements on a long term basis under examination.

At present, 10 pairs of trains including one pair exclusively between Rohtak-Delhi/Khurja and 6 pairs of Mail/Express trains are run on this section for clearing commuters and other long distance traffic. for the facility of commuters on Delhi/New Delhi-Khurja and Delhi/New Delhi-Aligarh sections, the stoppages of 39 Up (Janata Express) have been provided at Kalwa, Danwar, Chola, Wait, Ajaibpur and Maripat with effect from 1-5-75. Similarly, the stoppage of 40 Dn (Janata Express) has also been provided at Danwar from the same date. Further in order to meet the outstanding demand of Khurja commuters for early arrival of 1 KGR Shuttle at Delhi and also to provide more accommodation, this train has been dieselised with effect from 1-9-75 and its load has been increased from 14 to 17 coaches. Timings have also been revised and at present, it reaches Delhi at 08.20 hrs. Besides, a survey is also underway for determining facilities and investments that would be required for operating EMU services between Aligarh-Khurja-Delhi/New Delhi following electrification of the route.

Expenditure on V.I.P. fleet of Saloon carriages

*132. SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are currently spending Rupees one crore every year to maintain V.I.P. fleet of Saloon Carriages used by senior officers;

(b) what is the number of officers entitled to travel by these carriages;

(c) whether Government propose to curtail the expenditure on the maintenance of these carriages in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.