

t [Metre gauge line from Delhi to Bangalore

*692. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SAKHLECHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to introduce an express train on the metre gauge line from Delhi to Bangalore is under consideration of the Ministry of Railways;

(h) whether it is also a fact that the passengers travelling from Rajasthan to the South have to face great inconvenience in the absence of an express train from Delhi-via-Ajmer-Khandwa-Hingoli; and

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; if so, with what results ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहम्मद शफी कुरेशी) : (क) और (ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) दिल्ली और बंगलौर के बीच समूचे मीटर लाइन-मार्ग से होकर एक सीधी गाड़ी चलाने का न तो यातायात की दृष्टि से औचित्य है और न परिचालनिक दृष्टि से ही व्यावहारिक है क्योंकि मार्ग में पड़ने वाले खण्डों में लाइन-क्षमता का और दिल्ली में टर्मिनल सुविधाओं का अभाव है।

[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Introduction of a direct train between Delhi and Bangalore via all metre gauge route is neither justified on traffic considerations nor operationally feasible for want of line capacity on sections en-route and lack of terminal facilities at Delhi.

Postings of High Court Judges

*693. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: SHRI N. S. TALIB : SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU : SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the persistent demand from certain Bar Councils/Bar Associations and for ensuring an independent judiciary Government contemplate to make it a practice not to post High Court Judges in their respective States of domicile; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Accident to Madras-Mangalore Mail

*694. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHA-RAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madras-Mangalore Mail met with an accident on the 24th October, 1974 between Cannanore and Mangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to ensure that such accidents do not occur in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Presumably the reference is to the failure of engine of Madras-Mangalore Mail between Payyanur and Trikarapur stations on 24-10-74. The engine had failed due to defect in the underframe of its tender.

Underframes of engine tenders are adequately strengthened in Shops and intensive examination is carried out in the sheds. The defaulting staff are also taken up.

Decline in Profit of IOC

*695. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the increased turnover of the Indian Oil Corporation during the current year, the profit of the Corporation has shown a decrease compared to the last year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALA-VIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1973-74, despite increase in the total sales