

**Problems at Surat railway station**

\*602. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are diverting passenger traffic from Surat railway station to Udhna railway station in view of Surat station being overloaded with passenger traffic;

(b) the action taken by Railways regarding dirty water falling on people passing through various railway underpasses near Surat station;

(c) whether Railways have chalked out any road-map, in coordination with Surat Municipal Corporation, to solve this problem; and

(d) if so, the specific time-limit therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) to (d) There is no proposal at present to divert passenger traffic from Surat to Udhna Railway station.

Regarding the issue of water falling on people passing through railway underpasses near Surat station, Surat Municipal Corporation had earlier proposed for replacement of steel girders of 3 subways viz., bridge Nos. 445, 447 and 449 by Pre-stressed Concrete slabs. The work of replacement of steel girders by Pre-stressed Concrete slabs of bridge Nos. 447 and 449 has already been completed by the Railways as a deposit work of Surat Municipal Corporation. After replacement of steel girders, some minor leakage of water through the joints of Pre-stressed concrete slabs provided on Bridge No. 447 and 449 has continued. Thus, as an interim measure, channels were provided by the Railways below the joints between the bridge deck slabs at both these bridges to prevent dropping of water on road users, which are serving the purpose.

As provision of Pre-stressed Concrete slab on bridge No. 445 was not found feasible, it has been decided to provide Reinforced Cement Concrete box at this bridge. The work of construction of Reinforced Cement Concrete box on bridge No. 445 is to be done by Surat Municipal Corporation under Railway's supervision. The General Arrangement Drawing of this bridge has already been approved by the Railways.

As a permanent solution to the problem, as agreed by Surat Municipal Corporation, Cement Concrete apron is planned to be provided over Pre-stressed Concrete slabs on bridge No. 447 and 449 as a deposit work of Surat Municipal Corporation. The tender for the work of providing Cement Concrete apron over bridge slabs on Bridge No. 447 and 449 has been accepted and it is likely to take one year to complete the work.