(b) to (d) In all new Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU) rakes, an audio-cum visual display arrangement has been provided for the automatic announcement of next station. It is not feasible to automatically announce the direction of the platform with certainty due to last minute diversions in case of emergencies.

Proposal for railway link

2300. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to have railway link between Kolhapur and Sawantwadi or Kudal on Konkan Railway in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A survey is in progress for connecting Kolhapur with Rajapur (120 km). Sawantwadi and Kudal will also get covered in this survey.

(c) Does not arise.

Increasing speed of trains

2301. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to increase the speed of certain trains upto maximum of 200 Kilometres per hour;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the trains and routes finalised for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to make the tracks strong enough to absorb vibration that would emanate from trains running at a speed of 200 Kilometres per hour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) The Indian Railway Vision 2020 envisages raising of speed of passenger trains to 160-200 kmph on the routes where freight traffic has been segregated by construction of Dedicated Freight Corridor. A Feasibility Study for increasing the speed on Delhi-Mumbai route is being carried out with assistance from Government of Japan. Raising of speed will involve strengthening of track and bridges, modification in signalling and overhead electric traction and other safety measures. Further action by the Ministry of Railways will be taken on completion of the study and its examination thereof.