

- (a) when was laying of Gulbarga-Bidar railway line started;
- (b) the details thereof including total distance to be covered, the number of stations thereon and its original estimated project cost;
- (c) the reasons for the delay in work;
- (d) by when work would be completed and what would be its total cost; and
- (e) whether at present there is any problem by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Gulbarga-Bidar Railway line was included in the Railway Budget for the year 1997-98. The distance of this new line project is 140 km. and there are 11 stations. The original estimated cost of the project was Rs. 229.16 crore.

(c) and (d) No target date has been fixed for completion of this project and it is progressing according to availability of resources. The latest anticipated cost of this project is Rs. 776 crore.

(e) No, Sir.

#### **Rail Tariff Authority**

275. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has constituted Rail Tariff Authority (RTA) to decide train fares;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the RTA would take into account facilities like drinking water, sanitation and food before hiking the fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.