

- (d) Does not arise.

Doubling of Madurai-Kanyakumari railway line

1974. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sanction has not been accorded for doubling of railway line between Madurai-Kanyakumari section of Chennai-Kanyakumari trunk route so far; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Survey for doubling of Madurai-Kanyakumari (245 Km) section has been completed. As per survey report, the cost of the project has been assessed as ₹ 1926 crore with a Rate of Return of 8%, which is well below the threshold limit of remunerativeness i.e. 14%.

Condition of coaches in trains towards Guwahati

1975. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old coaches with poor condition are used in all trains including Rajdhani Express bound towards Guwahati, Assam the hub of North-east tourism;

(b) if so, the details of passenger coaches used in such trains; and

(c) the steps Railways have taken for improvement of quality of food/meals supplied in all trains including Rajdhani Express?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken to improve the quality of catering services are as follows:

- Regular, surprise and periodical inspections of quality and hygiene of food/meals supplied on trains.