

have to be heavily subsidised for operation and, therefore, cannot carry any additional social burden like rehabilitation which should form a part of the State Government's Social Welfare Programme.

Double headed train on Ahmedabad-Bombay-Ahmedabad Section

2034. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal regarding introduction of a double headed train on Ahmedabad-Bombay-Ahmedabad section of the Western Railway is under the consideration of the Railway Board;

(b) whether Government are aware that almost all the trains from Ahmedabad-Bombay-Ahmedabad are running over crowded and there is always a long waiting list for II and I Class reservations;

(c) whether Government are also aware that there is a need to augment passenger train services on this section of the Western Railway;

(d) whether the proposed double headed train would give much needed relief to the public; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No.

(b) to (e). The Railways are siezed with the problems of passengers Services between Bombay and Ahmadabad. Recently Double Decker Coaches with 60 per cent over capacity than the conventional coaches have been provided in 21/22 Flying Rani between Bombay and Surat. It is however, not possible to introduce additional trains or to augment the loads of existing trains due to operational constraints. Even double heading will not be of much help as the platforms of adequate length are not available to receive and despatch longer trains. In order to meet the extra rush of traffic

during holiday's special trains are run between Ahmedabad and Bombay.

Dredger Mahaganga

2035. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dredger 'Mahaganga' purchased by the Calcutta Port Trust from Garden Reach Workshop is not functioning properly and as such, the dredging programme on Hooghly river is being suffered; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various technical defects and deficiencies have been analysed and an agreed time bound rectification programme has been drawn up. Accordingly, the dredger is scheduled to be docked by end April, 1980 for necessary repairs.

Karur-Dindigul Line

2036. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey to lay a new railway line (Broad Gauge) between Karur and Dindigul of Southern Railway with a view to link New Delhi-Tirunelveli via Madurai;

(b) if so, the details of such survey; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes.

(b) Re-appraisal of the earlier survey for construction of a new BG line from Karur to Dindigul, parallel BG line from Dindigul to Madurai, and