

an overbridge or underpass at the railway crossing at Kanjur Marg crossing in Bhandup, Bombay; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):

(a) and (b). The proposal for construction of Road over bridge at km 24/4-5 in replacement of level crossing No. 16 at km 24/16-17 near Kanjur Marg between Vikhroli and Bhandup is already an approved work and included in the Railways Works Programme for 1977-78.

Estimate for the work has been sanctioned. The Railway have however not been able to take up their portion of the work as the State Government has not been able so far to acquire the land for the approaches. The work will be undertaken by the Railway as soon as the State Government indicate their programme for construction of approaches.

Central Bombay Suburban Services

542. DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that due to an outdated power generator at Daçar (Bombay), an obsolete signal system, and saturated traffic on the track, the Central Railway Suburban Service is unable to cope up with passenger traffic in the Bombay area; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any plans to improve the efficiency of the services.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Agitation by Tirunelveli Railway Loco Staff

543. SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent agitation by the Railway Loco staff in Tirunelveli escalated into violent agitation spreading into inter-State dispute causing considerable loss to the Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons for the agitation by the Railway Loco Staff in Tirunelveli;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by Government as a result thereof; and

(d) whether the dispute has since been settled; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). The Loco Running Staff as well as others belonging to the Madurai Division of Southern Railway launched an agitation demanding attaching of the newly constructed Broad Gauge section from Tirunelveli to Nagercoil/Kanya Kumari with Madurai Division while the notification issued on 28-2-1980 had mentioned attaching of this section with Tiruvandrum Division. The agitation did not assume violent shape. Both Tamil Nadu and Kerala are demanding attaching of the said section with the Railway divisional headquarters in their States, viz., Madurai and Trivandrum. The approximate loss in earnings on account of cancellation of passenger and goods trains due to this agitation is estimated at about Rs. 23 lakhs.

(d) The then Minister for Railways met a large number of Members of Parliament, Leaders of Opposition in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the representatives of the State Governments. The views expressed by various parties are still under consideration of the Government.