

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINES IN SARAN-SONEPUR

*358. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any scheme of expansion of railway lines or construction of new ones in the district of Saran (Bihar) under the O. T. R. (now the N. E. Railway) and the district of Sonepur?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what progress has been made towards its execution?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) and (b). There is no scheme of expansion of railway lines or construction of new ones in the district of Saran (Bihar) under the N.E. Railway except a small portion of the Railway project, Chakia-Alwalia-Sidhwalia, which passes through the district of Saran. The main feature of this project is the bridging of the river Gandak, for which two sites are under investigation, one at Bagaha and the other at Sidhwalia. Further consideration of this project has been held up for the present pending finalisation of the bridge site.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know if there is another project also for running a new line from Taawe-Kateye to Bhatni?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No such line is under consideration.

Short Notice Question and Answer

Mr. Speaker: Short Notice Question; Dr. Ram Subhag Singh.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There are a few other questions on the same subject by other hon. Members. Naturally, they have to be disallowed as being repetitions. But, I propose to give every one of them a chance to put supplementary questions. He may put his question now.

RIOTS IN DELHI ON 26TH MAY, 1952

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that riots occurred in Delhi on Monday, the 26th May, 1952;

(b) the number of persons injured in those riots;

(c) the number of persons arrested; and

(d) whether tension still exists?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Kojia): Sir, with your permission, may I read a statement in reply, covering practically all the questions that have been put.

On the 6th of May this year, the Registrar of Marriages, Delhi, received a notice signed by one Sikandar Bakht of his intended marriage under the Special Marriage Act, 1872, with a girl of the name of Raj Sharma. In the notice the age of the bridegroom was stated to be 33 years and that of the bride 22. No objection to the marriage was received during the period of 14 days specified in the Act and the date of the marriage was fixed for the evening of the 24th May, 1952; at the Constitution Club, New Delhi. At 3 o'clock in the evening of the 24th, the father of the girl, Ram Narain, presented an objection to the Registrar on three grounds:—

(i) that the girl was below 20 years of age and that his consent had not been obtained;

(ii) that, as she was a Hindu by religion and Sikandar Bakht a Muslim, the marriage could not be celebrated under the Act, and

(iii) that the 14 days' notice prescribed under the Act had not been given.

The Registrar rejected this application on the grounds that the required notice had been given, that a period of 14 days within which objection could be taken had expired on the 21st of May, that the notice of marriage said that the age of the girl was 22 years and that both the parties had declared that they professed no religion. Thereafter Ram Narain approached the Court of the Senior Subordinate Judge, Delhi, and obtained a temporary injunction restraining Sikandar Bakht and Raj Sharma from solemnising their marriage till the 26th of May. Intimation of this injunction was received later in the day by the District Registrar.

2. In the meanwhile, a certain amount of publicity had been given to the proposed marriage and there was some degree of tension in the city. When the parties to the marriage appeared at the Constitution Club, there was a demonstration by a number of persons including the father and the brother of the bride. The injunction of the Court having been served on Sikandar Bakht, the marriage ceremony was not performed and indeed