

(b) These are Narrow Gauge wagons which were supplied by the Manufacturers without Centre Buffer Couplers according to the terms of the Contract. Supplies of Centre Buffer Couplers ordered separately, could not synchronise with the supplies of wagons and as such wagons had to be stabled. Supplies of Centre Buffer Couplers have since commenced and it is expected, that the wagons in question will be turned out to traffic shortly.

Railway Lines in Orissa during Tihrd Plan

637. **Shri Maheshwar Naik:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of tracks that have so far been or proposed to be doubled in Orissa;

(b) whether a new proposal for track-doubling has been suggested by the Government of Orissa; and

(c) if so, what is the decision taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Information about doubling of lines is not compiled State-wise but Railway-wise. However, a rough assessment indicates that out of all the doublings proposed to be carried out under the Third Five Year Plan about 300 miles will fall within Orissa State:

(b) and (c). The Government of Orissa have suggested the doubling of track between Jajpur Keonjhar Road and Khurda Road. Of this, the work on the doubling between Nergundi and Khurda Road is already in progress. A proposal for doubling the section between Jajpur Keonjhar Road and Nergundi is also under consideration.

Mechanised Farm in Madhya Pradesh

638. **Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether a

final decision has been taken to locate a large-sized mechanised farm in Madhya Pradesh on the pattern of a similar farm already set up in Suratgarh (Rajasthan)?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): No. The matter is still under consideration.

Quarters for P. & T. in Delhi

639. { **Shri Buta Singh:**
Shri Gulshan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 900 quarters have been acquired in Delhi by the P. & T. from the C.P.W.D.; and

(b) if so, when these quarters are likely to be allotted to the needy P. & T. employees in Delhi?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Agency to Supply Essential Commodities

{ **Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:**
640. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri Bhanu Prakash Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to set up a Central agency to ensure a continuous flow of supply of essential commodities like foodgrains, sugar, salt, pulses and edible-oils to Assam and adjoining areas; and

(b) if so, what is the constitution and precise functions of the proposed agency?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to set up a special agency.

but arrangements have been made to ensure regular and adequate supply of essential commodities to Assam and adjoining areas.

Tourist Advisory Committee

641. Shrimati Renuka Barkataki: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the first series of meetings of the Zonal Committee of the Tourist Advisory Committee held in January, 1962;

(b) the steps that Government have taken to implement those recommendations; and

(c) whether there is any major recommendation for the development of tourism in the State of Assam?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in the Library. See No. LT-561/62.*]

(c) The proposal to explore the possibility of opening river traffic between Calcutta and places of tourist interest in Assam has been examined and has since been found unworkable.

12 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: SITUATION IN NEFA AND LADAKH

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs, Defence and Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I gave some information to the House about the position on our fronts where fighting has been taking place. Since I spoke in the House yesterday, a report was received in the evening regarding the fall of Bomdi La. Bomdi La actually fell into the enemy's hands on the 18th evening, but as the situation was confused a report about it did not reach

Delhi until yesterday evening. The Chinese are now advancing on the Bomdi La foot hill road. Defensive positions have been prepared in front of them and our troops will give them battle there.

In Chushul, the post six miles east of Chushul was attacked by the Chinese in overwhelming strength for the fifth time yesterday afternoon. There was fierce fighting for more than an hour and a half and heavy casualties were inflicted on the Chinese attackers. But finally the post was over-run. Two other posts in the close vicinity of this post were also attacked and had to withdraw. Chushul, however, remains firmly in the hands of our force.

I should like to inform the House that General P. N. Thapar, our Chief of Army Staff, has this morning applied for long leave on grounds of health. He has been granted the leave and on his recommendation the senior Army Commander, Lt. General J. N. Chaudhury is being appointed to officiate as Chief of the Army Staff.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, I rise on a point of clarification. These disastrous reverses keep on coming and the House, I am sorry to say, it still in the dark as to what exactly the Government's plans are for the prosecution of the war. Now that Government is well posted with the strategy and tactics of the enemy for which we were not prepared a few weeks ago, may I ask the Prime Minister whether in this matter also assistance from friendly foreign countries is also being invited and has been obtained. Now very fierce fighting is going on. There is a report in the Press that our Charge d'affaires in Peking has met the Chinese Prime Minister. What is that about? Finally, may I suggest that without further delay a Parliamentary Committee representative of the Congress Party and all the groups should be constituted immediately with which the Prime Minister must keep in close touch from day to day?