

MANSI-SABARSA RAILWAY LINE

629. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to improve the Railway line running from Mansi to Saharsa (North Eastern Railway) in Bihar in order to extend facilities to the passengers during the Monsoon?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the details of the same?

(c) Is the 'Kursela Bridge' on the same line to be expanded and improved?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Atagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Out of the 3 existing dips between Mansi and Koparia, it is proposed to fill the first dip so as to enable the train to go up to 6½ miles from Mansi and thus reduce the journey to be covered in country boats.

(c) There is no proposal at present to expand the Kursela Bridge. Model experiments are, however, being arranged with a view to improving its protection works.

SALOONS

631. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of saloons in Assam part of the North Eastern Railway;

(b) how far these are surplus to requirements of the Assam part of the said Railway; and

(c) how far upper class bogies are in short supply in Assam part of the Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Atagesan): (a) There are now four bogie and sixteen six wheeler Inspection Carriages.

(b) None is surplus to requirements.

(c) Upper class bogies are not in short supply in Assam part of the North Eastern Railway.

ETTICKULAM PORT

632. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have at any time considered the possibility of developing a major port at Ettikkulam
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on the West Coast, north of Cannanore;

(b) whether any representations have been received by Government for developing Ettikkulam into a major port;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government have taken about the representations; and

(d) whether any investigations have been made about the possibility of developing a major Port at Ettikkulam?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Atagesan): (a) and (b). No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No.

EXPORT OF RICE FROM ORISSA

633. **Shri Sanjanaa:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantities of rice exported from Orissa to each deficit State of India during each of the last five years;

(b) the total amounts paid by each deficit State as the cost of rice supplied to them for the same period; and

(c) the total amount of subsidy granted to the State of Orissa for its rationed rice shops for the same period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 27.]

(b) Information is not available.

(c) There is no subsidy granted to any state for its rationed rice shops.

PULLAMPETA HALT

634. **Dr. Gangadhar Siva:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received to the effect that Pullampeta Halt in Cuddapah district should be made a regular station;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative what action has been taken in the matter;

(c) whether any traffic survey has been taken and if so, what are the details of that survey and the period to which it extended;

(d) whether any local persons have been asked to assist in this survey; and

(e) when the proposal will be finalised?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) Yes.

(b) It has been decided to convert Pullampeta Halt into a Flag station.

(c) and (d): Do not arise.

(e) The conversion will be effected during 1953-54.

Bidi Labour (Deductions)

635. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what deductions are permissible to be made by the employers in the minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act?

(b) Are Government aware that Bidi manufacturers in Madhya Pradesh have been making deductions to the extent of 33 per cent. or so in case of minimum wages fixed for Bidi Labour under the Act?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The permissible deductions are those laid down in Section 7 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

(b) It is understood that deductions are not made from minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act; but bidders which are not up to the standard are rejected and payment is made according to minimum rates of wages for accepted Bidis.

PASSENGER AMENITIES

636. **Shri H. G. Valsbhuav:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what amount has been spent for the amenities of Railway passengers over the metre gauge system of the Central Railway (previously N. S. Railway) in Hyderabad State in the years 1951 and 1952?

(b) What amenities have been provided to them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) In 1950-51 the expenditure was Rs. 3,98,346. In 1951-52 it is expected to be Rs. 3,75,805.

(b) A number of amenities have been provided at various stations and those include:

(1) Covering over passenger platforms.

(2) Refreshment rooms.

(3) Water coolers, drinking water shelters and shower baths.

(4) Waiting rooms.

(5) Approach roads to stations and their electrification.

(6) Lengthening, surfacing, raising and electrification and covering over passenger platforms and other improvements.

(7) Additions and alterations to booking offices.

(8) Platform benches, additional name boards, etc.

(9) Improvements to waiting halls and refreshment rooms.

(10) New station buildings.

(11) Electric lights in station buildings and platforms, improvement to lighting and provision of additional ceiling fans on station platforms, waiting rooms including lights and fans in tea stalls and refreshment rooms.

(12) Improved lighting and fans in Class III compartments of Metre Gauge Coaches.

LABOUR WELFARE ADVISERS

637. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Labour Welfare Advisers working on the Western Railway on the 1st November, 1952;

(b) whether it is a fact that an expansion of the Labour Welfare Organisation on the Western Railway was sanctioned by the Railway Board early in March, 1951;

(c) whether it is a fact that in spite of several Selection Boards, the Western Railway Administration has failed to select the required number of Labour Welfare Advisers; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any steps in the matter and if so, by what time the Organisation is likely to come in full swing?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) The number of Labour Welfare Advisers working on the Western Railway on 1.11.52 was 10.

(b) Yes, in February, 1951.