

of last June when he visited Assam, particularly mentioning about development of rail transport of Assam; and

(b) if so, whether any step is proposed to be taken on those items mentioned in the Memorandum?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As regards the points concerning the Ministry of Railways, the position is as follows:—

(i) *Improvement to the Link Route:*

A Committee to go into the question of stabilising the LINK ROUTE either by improving the existing route or by suggesting alternative route has been appointed.

(ii) *Rail connection from Tejpur to North Lakhimpur:*

At present it is not contemplated to extend the Railway line from Tejpur to North Lakhimpur.

(iii) *Extension of Railway line from Pandu to Garo Hills, and development of existing workshops at Bangaigaon and Dibrugarh:*

These matters are under consideration.

(iv) *Construction of Railway Bridge over the Brahmaputra:*

The proposal will be considered for examination if and when more funds become available during the later stages of the Second Five Year Plan.

(v) *Separate Railway Zone with headquarters at Pandu:*

It is not contemplated to create a new zone with Pandu as headquarters.

(vi) *Providing passenger amenities on the State of Assam:*

This is being already done.

As regards other points raised by Hon'ble Member, information is being collected.

Regional Forest Research Station in Assam

1558. Shri Debendra Nath Sarma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to establish a Regional Forest Research Station in Assam during the Second Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The Standing Committee of the Central Board of Forestry

in its meeting held in June last has made a suggestion that if possible the establishment of a Regional Forest Research Station in the North East Zone should be attempted during the Second Plan period.

गुना-सारंगपुर-शाजापुर-माखी लाइन

१५५६. श्री भ० न० मालवीय : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुना-सारंगपुर-शाजापुर माखी लाइन का पूर्ण सर्वेक्षण उसी प्रकार किया जायेगा जिस प्रकार प्रस्तावित ग्वालियर-उज्जैन लाइन के लिये गुना-आगरा लाइन का सर्वेक्षण किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सर्वेक्षण का काम कब शुरू किया जायेगा; और

(ग) क्या गुना-सारंगपुर-शाजापुर-माखी लाइन के निर्माण-कार्य को प्राथमिकता दी जायेगी क्योंकि इस लाइन की लम्बाई अपेक्षाकृत कम है, और इसमें खर्चा भी कम होगा ।

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) : (क) गुना से व्यावरण तक का टुकड़ा दोनों रास्तों पर पड़ेगा, और व्यावरा से माखी तक एक दूसरा रास्ता (alternate route) बनाने के स्थान से उस का सर्वे किया जा रहा है ।

(ख) सर्वे जल्द शुरू किया जायेगा ।

(ग) सर्वे की रिपोर्ट मिलने पर जब रेलवे बोर्ड उस पर विचार कर लेगा, तब फैसला किया जायेगा ।

Engineers in Railways

1560. Shri P. G. Sen: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have become Engineers or Assistant Engineers without Engineering qualifications in Signalling and Tele-Communication Departments of the Railway;

(b) how many of them are non-matriculates and how many of them have studied preliminary Science with special reference to Eastern Railway; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in such cases of promotion necessary minimum qualifications required for the post of Inspector or Assistant Signal Engineers, were not taken into consideration?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) to (c). Information is being collected from the Railways and will be placed on the table of the House as soon as received.

Post Offices in Tirunelveli District

1561. Shri Thrau Pillai: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many new Post Offices have been opened in Tirunelveli District in the First Five Year Plan period; and

(b) how many proposals are still pending?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) 85.

(b) Target for the First Five Year Plan having been reached, there was no carry-over from the past. However, 3 proposals for opening Offices during the current year are pending.

Dried Milk Plants

1562. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the installation of dried milk plants at Madras and Calcutta with the co-operation of the F.A.O.; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No. The proposal is for setting up Toned Milk Plants.

(b) Do: s not arise.

Bhatinda, Amritsar via Harika Bridge Railway Line

1563. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to build a Railway line from Bhatinda to Amritsar via Harika Bridge has been considered; and

(b) if so, the decision that has been arrived at?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was not considered justifiable on commercial and financial grounds.

Conference of Bridge Engineers at Lisbon

1564. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Bridge Engineers was held in Lisbon recently; and

(b) if so, the main decisions of this Conference?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Congress discussed a number of technical papers on the subject of the behaviour of various materials and structures under different types of stress and strain. An official copy of the conclusions reached is awaited from the Congress Authorities.

Road to Pilgrim Centres

1565. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether some amount has been sanctioned and given to the State Government of Punjab for the improvement of roads leading to pilgrim centres;

(b) the total amount so far sanctioned; and

(c) names of places where this amount will be spent?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Railway Level Crossings

1566. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that level crossings on Grand Trunk Road near City Ludhiana, Pihular, Goraya, Beas and other crossings remain closed due to heavy Railway traffic which causes great inconvenience to road traffic; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). Level crossings are closed for the passage of trains but so far, there has been no complaint about any serious