

Brahmaputra Steamer Service

282. Shri Bhagavati: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Brahmaputra Steamer Service has been the main line of transport for the State of Assam in the past;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Brahmaputra river transport has been very badly affected since the great earthquake of 1950;

(c) whether Government are aware that the important steamer ghats in the State of Assam have become unstable and undependable and that it has caused various difficulties for navigation;

(d) the steps that are being taken to improve the condition of inland waterways in the State of Assam;

(e) whether the Government propose to take adequate steps such as dredging of rivers, at least near about ghats, to make the Brahmaputra steamer ghats, viz. Gauhati, Tezpur, Sli-ghat, Neamati and Dibrugarh permanent and dependable as steamer-ghats;

(f) the measures recommended by the Brahmaputra River Commission; and

(g) the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Brahmaputra River Commission?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Government are aware that the Brahmaputra is one of the important lines of transport for the State of Assam;

(b) Government are aware that river transport on the Brahmaputra has been adversely affected by the earthquake of 1950;

(c) Government are aware that some steamer ghats in Assam have become unstable and caused difficulties for navigation;

(d) and (e). It is proposed to dredge the waterways wherever

necessary, to arrange for the removal of floating trees which obstruct navigation and take such other measures as may be considered necessary;

(f) The Brahmaputra River Commission did not consider the problem of water transport in the Brahmaputra, as it deals only with the flood problems in the Basin;

(g) Does not arise.

Post Office Buildings and Staff Quarters in Imphal

283. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have any plan to construct the Post Office building at Imphal in the current financial year;

(b) whether there is any provision for the construction of staff quarters for the Post and Telegraph employees at Imphal; and

(c) whether there is any post office building to be constructed by Government in any other centre or sub-divisional headquarter in Manipur?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Yes for Sengjumai bazar and Imphal bazar Sub-Offices.

Acquisition of Paddy Fields in Manipur

284. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government made any order for the recovery of paddy confiscated by the Manipur Administration at the time of acquiring the paddy fields of the Lamphel peasants;

(b) whether the peasants made any representation for stay for eviction from these fields or for recovery of paddy confiscated by Government;

(c) what is the purpose of Government in evicting the peasants from the Lamphelpat; and