

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

(d) how many acres of paddy land have been acquired by the Manipur Administration in the Lamphelpat?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The land in question, which belongs to the Manipur Administration, had been given on annual lease to cultivators. When it was decided to set up an Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Farm, the annual lease to the cultivators was not renewed. However, cultivators were permitted to harvest the standing crops. Wherever they failed to do so, orders were issued by the Manipur Administration for the payment of sale proceeds of the standing crops to the cultivators concerned. The Union Government did not issue any orders in this matter.

(b) Yes, some representations were received.

(c) The land was required for an Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Farm in Manipur. It is proposed to conduct field experiments at the Farm mainly on rice to evolve a suitable type of paddy for maximum yield under the conditions prevailing in Manipur. In the Animal Husbandry field, steps will be taken to improve the breed of cattle and to evolve an efficient type of cattle which would serve the dual purpose of providing power for agricultural operations and produce more milk for human consumption.

(d) The Administration acquired 750 acres of paddy land by not renewing the annual lease and evicting the unauthorised occupants.

Cattle Census in Manipur

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

(a) whether Government have any accurate figures of cattle census for the Union Territory of Manipur;

(b) whether it is a fact that at present there is shortage of cattle for the purpose of ploughing the fields;

(c) whether it is a fact that cows have been employed indiscriminately in ploughing the fields as a result of shortage of bullocks; and

(d) whether any steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes, but for the year 1945 only.

(b) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is received.

Co-operative Sugar Factory

286. Shri Manvendra Shah: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any sugar factory that has been replaced by Co-operative Sugar Factory in India; and

(b) if so, in what manner and how much compensation was given to the mill-owner?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Kandla-Raniwada Rail Link

287. Shri Damani: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the Railway line from Kandla Station will be connected with Raniwada Station in Jalore district of Rajasthan; and

(b) when the regular passenger service is expected to commence?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Expected in November, 1957.

Airfields at Shillong and Nowgong

288. Shri Liladhar Kataki: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in establishing air-fields at Shillong and Nowgong in the State of Assam; and