

exist have not yet been able to stop this practice due to certain legal and other difficulties. The Andhra Pradesh Government have recently promulgated an Ordinance specifically for banning collection of capitation fee. The Ordinance is being replaced by a Bill which has been passed by the State Assembly on the 21st March, 1983.

Frequent break-down in running of suburban and Non-Suburban Trains in Sealdah Division

5197. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have gone into the reasons of frequent break-down in running of suburban and non-suburban trains of the Sealdah Division;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken so far; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes.

(b) Recently 48 Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) coaches including 12 motor coaches have been provided to Eastern Railway not only to replace some overaged coaches but also to improve the reliability in service and increase frequency. The main reason of frequent break-down has been incidents of thefts, damage and pilferage of vital equipment by miscreants, effective liaison is also being maintained with the concerned security agencies and the State Government.

(c) It is too early to make an assessment in this regard.

Construction of platform shed and connecting road at Chengail station.

5198. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that some small work of construction of three platform sheds at Chengail station of S. E. railway and some

repair or reconstruction of the connecting roads from the station have not yet completed for several years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons; and

(c) whether the Government will allocate adequate funds for the work and complete the work immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes. The work of extension of 3 bays of platform shelters on platform Nos. 1 & 2/3 were approved in 1979-80 Budget, and not yet completed. The approach road which is of water bound macadam needs some patch repairs.

(b) and (c) The reasons for non-completion was general paucity of funds and some delay in fabrication of the sheds. Casting of foundation have since been completed, and Railway expects to complete the erection work in the next few months.

The patch repairs on the water bound macadam approach road in Railway are also expected to be completed before onset of the monsoon.

Bridge over river Brahmani between Tumkela ghat and Bonaigarh in Orissa

5199. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the construction of a bridge over the river Brahmani between Tumkelaghat and Bonaigarh on National Highway No. 23 (Orissa) is under consideration of the Government.

(b) if so, when the above bridge is proposed to be constructed;

(c) the estimated cost of that bridge; and

(d) the amount proposed to be sanctioned for 1983-84 for the construction of the above bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to

(c). Yes, Sir. However, owing to financial constraints it has not been possible to approve the proposal so far. As per the 1982 Schedule of Rates of Orissa, the bridge project including approaches with four minor bridges is estimated to cost Rs. 520.25 lakhs.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure of Jawahar Lal Nehru University during Last six Months.

5200. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state the number of times Jawaharlal Nehru University closed during the normal working days in last six months?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): During the last six months, the Jawaharlal Nehru University was closed only once from February 25, 1983. However, it re-opened on March 3, 1983.

Cultural Agreement between India and Ethiopia

5201. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state details of the cultural agreement signed recently between India and Ethiopia?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): A Cultural Agreement between the Government of India and the Provisional Military Government of the Socialist Ethiopia was signed on February 9, 1983. The Agreement aims at developing closer relations between India and Ethiopia in the fields of art, culture, education (including academic activity in the fields of science and technology), sports, public health and mass media of information including films, television, radio and press. For this purpose, both sides will encourage and facilitate recipro-

cal visits of professors and experts; exchange of materials in the fields of culture, science, education, sports etc; grant of scholarships to students for higher studies; exchange of artists and dance and music ensembles; exchange of art and other exhibitions; exchange of films, documentaries, radio and television programmes; participation in each other's international films festivals; visits of sports teams etc.

For the fulfilment of the various objectives, the Agreement provides for the setting up of a joint committee of the two governments which will be responsible for advising the respective governments in formulating concrete programmes of exchanges to be carried out in the fields envisaged in the Agreement and in reviewing the operation of the programme.

The Agreement will come into force from the date of exchange of Instruments of Ratification by both the governments.

Construction of Railway line from Hili to Eklakhi via Balurghat

5202. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have under consideration a proposal to construct railway line from Hili to Eklakhi via Balurghat;

(b) whether the survey has since been completed;

(c) whether the Railway Board have since approved it; and

(d) at what stage does it rest now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). There is proposal to construct a railway line from Eklakhi to Hili via Balurghat. A survey has recently been carried out for construction of a railway line between Eklakhi and Balurghat. Taking into consideration the need for development of this backward region, a proposal was sent to the Planning Commission for clearance, which is awaited.