

Staff Benefit Fund Committee, Calcutta; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to sanction the due amount to the staff concerned and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Of the 558 applications received during 1970-71 from the Danapur Division, assistance in 426 cases where applications were complete and from eligible candidates was sanctioned straightway. Further, assistance in 34 additional cases was sanctioned later after completion of the applications. No assistance in the remaining cases which were ineligible could be sanctioned.

Nationalisation of Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway in Bihar

2061. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to connect South Sahabad (Rohtas District) with North Sahabad (Bhojpur) in Bihar, there is a Metre Gauge Railway line run by Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway;

(b) whether Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway provides the only shortest rail route between the aforesaid places; and

(c) whether Government propose to nationalise the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway; and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) and (b). Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway, which passes through the Sahabad District of Bihar, is a narrow gauge line and is the only rail link between Arrah and Sasaram.

(c) No.

Take-over of Wagon Buildings from Private sector

2062. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI BISHWANATH
JHUNJHUNWALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the question of taking over part of the production of Railway Wagons from the private sector; and

(b) if so, by what time the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of a Special Committee for Power Shortage

2063. SHRI SAMAR GUHA:
SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special Committee has been set up, with the Minister of Planning as its Chairman, for dealing with the problems of power shortage, dislocation and break-down in transmission of power throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the composition, powers, functions and other terms of reference of the Committee?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND
POWER** (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

The Committee comprises the Minister for Planning as Chairman and the Ministers of Finance, Industrial Development, Steel and Mines, Railways and Irrigation and Power as Members.

The terms of reference of the Committee are —

- (1) Steps to be taken to improve utilisation of the existing plants
- (2) Steps to be taken to accelerate the commissioning of the projects under construction
- (3) Steps to be taken for constructing major transmission lines, where necessary
- (4) Advance action to be taken on projects which are to be commissioned in the Fifth Plan

Barachanka Drainage Scheme for Midnapur District, West Bengal

2064 SHRI SAMAR GUHA Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have approved the Barachanka Drainage Scheme for dealing with the frequent flood and water logging problems of the Barachanka area of the Midnapur District of West Bengal

(b) if so, the broad features of the scheme and its estimated expenditure,

(c) whether the Central Government have asked West Bengal State Government to give priority to the execution of the Barachanka Drainage Scheme and

(d) if so the response of the State Government and the reasons for delay in executing the Drainage Scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B N KUREEL) (a) and (b) The Barachanka Drainage Scheme has been approved by the Planning Commission in February, 1969 at an estimated cost of Rs. 32.41 lakhs. The scheme envisages the re-modelling of the Ballaghya drain and diversion of part of the drainage

of Barachanka basin into Ekhetia Khai for giving relief to an area of 1800 hectares in the Barachanka basin in Midnapore District

(c) and (d) Yes. The Central Government had written to the West Bengal Government for their consideration suggesting the early implementation of this scheme. While agreeing that it will be advantageous to implement the scheme expeditiously the State Government have informed that they do not have the funds to take up the scheme in the current plan.

Restoration of Light Railways in West Bengal

2065 SHRI SAMAR GUHA
DR RANEN SEN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Government, in collaboration with the Central Government have decided to restore and reopen Light Railways in West Bengal,

(b) if so the main features of the scheme for restoration and reopening of the suspended Light Railways in the State, and

(c) the time scheduled programme for execution of the scheme for the restoration and reopening of the Light Railways in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T A PAI) (a) to (c) The question when and how these light railways should be run has not been decided yet. This decision will be taken jointly by the Ministry of Railways and the Government of West Bengal.

Large amount of royalty and dividend paid to the Phillips Company by the Cochin Oil Refinery

2066 SHRI VAYALAR RAVI Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) whether the amount of royalty and dividend paid to the Phillips Company by the Cochin Oil Refinery is too