

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Sir, it is a fact that there is a certain amount of inconvenience experienced by the public.

(b) It is proposed to construct a road-over-bridge in lieu of this level crossing. The matter regarding the selection of the site, apportionment of the cost etc., is under correspondence between the Railway Administration and the State Government. Pending construction of the overbridge, it is proposed to shift temporarily the level crossing to minimise the inconvenience caused to the public. This matter is also under correspondence with the State Government and is expected to be finalised shortly.

Posts of Wagon Chasers on North Eastern Railway

749. Shri Yadav: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1516 on the 11th December, 1957 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 25 per cent posts of wagon chasers in the grade of Rs. 80—160 allotted to office-clerks of the operating section on the North Eastern Railway have not yet been filled; and

(b) if so, why?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of Rice by Punjab

750. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of rice procured so far by the Punjab Government on behalf of the Central Government?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Approximately 66,000 tons, upto 20-2-58.

Timber Bridges on Assam Trunk Road

751. Shrimati Mafta Ahmed: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of timber bridges

on the whole of the Assam Trunk Road National Highway 37; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to replace these bridges by permanent ones?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There are more than hundred timber bridges. The information about the exact figures will be laid on the table of the Sabha after obtaining it from State Government.

(b) Proposals for the reconstruction or improvement of only a few bridges which are considered to be weak are under consideration.

Road-bridge over river Bhogdoi

752. Shrimati Mafta Ahmed: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the road width on the road-bridge over the river Bhogdoi on National Highway No. 37 is narrow and cannot cope with the pedestrian traffic; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to widen it?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Government of India are aware that the bridge is narrow. Two foot paths have, however, been added to the bridge for the use of pedestrian traffic and the question of further widening the bridge or constructing a new bridge is at present under consideration in consultation with the State Government.

Organised Hooliganism

753. Shri Biren Roy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the organised hooliganism that took place on the 1st of January, 1958 at Sahubganj to molest the members of the Mohan Bagan Football Team, who were returning after