

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes. If they do not sell, the releases would be cut.

श्री राम सेनक यादव : स्टेटमेंट में दिया हुआ है कि दिल्ली में चीनी का मूल्य एक रुपया भाठ नए पैसा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय को यह जानकारी है कि साऊथ एवेन्यू में चीनी एक रुपया पचास नए पैसे बिक रही है ?

Mr. Speaker: That has already been answered.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it correct to say that the sugar mills are responsible for creating this artificial price rise by restricting the release of sugar from mills, as suggested by the Indian Sugar Mills Association to the Government?

Shri A. M. Thomas: No, Sir. We keep a careful watch over the level of prices and we regulate the releases in such a manner as to see that when the prices go up sufficient sugar is being released into the market. There is no question of being influenced by the Sugar Mills Association.

Railway Lines in North Eastern Region

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*4. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
 { Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 930 on the 22nd January, 1963 and state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for doubling of railway track and conversion of metre gauge lines to broad gauge in the North Eastern Region on an emergency basis;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the action taken so far towards the implementation of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). The entire question of improving rail communication with North Bengal and Assam is under examination.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether a memorandum was presented to the hon. Minister of Railways by the Members of Parliament from Assam, detailing the bottlenecks suffered by the Indian railways in the NEFA region in November last and, if so, whether any of the proposals contained in the memorandum have been accepted by Government for inclusion in their schemes?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Swaran Singh): It is a fact that a memorandum was handed over to me. This matter is under active examination. It was already being examined and this was an added reason why it should be examined more carefully after the receipt of that memorandum.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the Government of Assam has proposed the conversion from metre-gauge to broad-gauge of the Siliguri-Gauhati line across the Brahmaputra and the Minister of Economic and Defence Co-ordination, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, has also recommended that scheme?

Shri Swaran Singh: The hon. Member is giving more information than he is asking. It is a fact that the Assam Government have put forward that viewpoint. The whole matter is under very active consideration.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it not a fact that some years back a Committee of Experts and engineers appointed by the Government of India suggested improvement of railway facilities, including broad gauge lines, in that region because of the strategic importance of that area? May I know why Government have taken so many years over it and even now they are in a fix?

Shri Swaran Singh: I am not aware which particular body of experts the hon. Member is referring to.

Shri Hem Barua: The one appointed in your predecessor's regime.

Shri Swaran Singh: But on the whole the transport needs of that area, even during the emergency, were

sufficiently met. However, in spite of that the matter is under examination for a variety of reasons including the likelihood of peak periods of traffic when within a short period a large volume of traffic may have to be carried.

Shri Hem Barua: May I submit....

Mr. Speaker: He has asked the question and the answer has come.

Shri Hem Barua: There was an expert committee of seven engineers appointed by the Government of India during his predecessor's term of office.

Mr. Speaker: That is all right.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: The answer given by the hon. Minister does not make it clear whether the Government has considered the doubling of the track or the converting of the metre gauge into broad gauge. Which of the two aspects has been considered?

Shri Swaran Singh: Both these aspects have been considered. A third aspect, namely, another alignment for a new railway line, is also under consideration.

Shri Basumatari: In view of the fact that the bridge on the Brahmaputra has been completed and the ferry crossing arrangement at Pandu is lying idle and at the same time when the national highway diversion is not yet complete, may I know whether there is a proposal to transfer this ferry to Jogighopa from Pandu to meet this emergency?

Shri Swaran Singh: It is a suggestion for action.

रेलवे दुर्घटना जांच समिति

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- *५ { श्री भक्त दर्शन :
श्री भगवत मा आजाद :
श्री स० मो० बनर्जी :
श्री प्र० चं० बरुआ :
श्री विभति मिश्र :
श्री दी० चं० शर्मा :
श्री प्र० रं० चक्रवर्ती :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रेलवे दुर्घटना जांच समिति के प्रारम्भिक प्रतिवेदन में की गई सिफारिशों पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(ख) उक्त समिति के अन्तिम प्रतिवेदन के कब तक मिल जाने की संभावना है ?

रेलवे मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सें० बें० रामास्वामी) : (क). रेलवे दुर्घटना जांच समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट का पहला भाग पेश किया है और रेलवे मंत्रालय ने उस पर विचार किया है। रिपोर्ट में जो सिफारिशों की गई हैं और विचार प्रकट किये गये हैं, उन पर रेल मंत्रालय की राय २२-१-६३ को सभा-पटल पर रखी गई थी। उस राय के अनुसार आगे कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

(ख) अभी निश्चित तारीख बताना संभव नहीं है।

[(a) The Railway Accidents Committee submitted Part I of their Report which was considered by the Ministry of Railways. A copy of their views on the Recommendations/Observations made in the Report has been laid on the Table of the House on 22-1-63. Further action in the light of those views is being pursued.

(b) At this stage it is not possible to give a firm date.]

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन, इस कमेटी ने जो अपनी प्रारम्भिक रिपोर्ट दी है उसकी सिफारिशों पर अमल करने में अब तक कितनी सफलता मिली है और उन की वजह से स्थिति में कितना सुधार हुआ है ?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: There are about 110 items in the report; of these 28 are observations and seven are recommendations for action. They are under consideration. As regards the remaining, they are either accepted