

Mr. Speaker: Nothing has been settled with regard to the fifth. If this is settled earlier this will be fifth.

Rail Communication in Assam

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*280. { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:
Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:
Shri R. Barua:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Assam in January this year to make a personal study of the needs for augmenting the rail communication in that State;

(b) if so, the result of his study; and

(c) the schemes which are to be taken up during the ensuing year for augmenting the rail communications in that area?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Minister for Railways did visit Assam in January, 1965; and study of the needs for augmenting rail communications in Assam was only one of the many points, which the Minister was concerned with.

(b) and (c). Several schemes are under implementation for augmenting the transport facilities to Assam. The broad gauge line is being extended from Siliguri to Jogighopa. Simultaneously, the ferry capacity at Khejuria|Farakka Ghat is being increased from 200 to 400 B.G. wagons daily. Centralised Traffic Control, a most modern form of Signalling, is being provided between Bongaigaon and Gauhati, to increase the capacity of the existing metre gauge section. Major yard remodellings at Lumding, Tinsukia, Alipur Duar, Rangiya and Siliguri as also line Capacity Works in the section between Chamagram and New Jalpaiguri have either been sanctioned or are in progress.

In addition, the Ministry of Transport have plans for augmentation of the road as well as river transport capacity beyond Bongaigaon|Jogighopa, including development of an inland port, at Jogighopa.

With all these measures, the transport capacity of Assam is expected to become double of what it is now. The problem will, however, be kept under continuous watch by the Railway Ministry as well as the other concerned Ministries of the Government.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : जितना लम्बा जवाब दिया गया है उतना ही लम्बा सवाल भी करने की इजाजत दी जाय बहरहाल आप का दृष्टम सिर माथे पर और इसलिए मैं सवाल छोटा ही करूंगा। सवाल यह है कि असम का बोरडर चीन और पाकिस्तान दोनों के साथ मिलता है और भारत की सुरक्षा को दोनों से खतरा बना हुआ है तो सरकार असम में रेल कम्युनिकेशन को सुदृढ़ करने और उसका विस्तार करने के काम को एक्सपैडिट करने के लिए क्या कर रही है ?

श्री शामनाथ : इसी वजह से तो चार पांच चीजें जिनका कि मैंने जिक्र किया वह हमारे हाथ में हैं। यह कोशिश की जा रही है कि ट्रान्स्पोर्ट कैपैसिटी ज्यादा से ज्यादा बढ़ जाये। इन तमाम स्कीमों पर तकरीबन 68 करोड़ रुपया खर्च होने वाला है।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : इस के ऊपर किसी दूसरे प्राविस से मदद ली जायगी या रेल मंत्रालय बगैर किसी ठेकेदार के या मिडिलमैन के इस काम को करेगा ?

श्री शामनाथ : अब इस में तो ऐसा कोई सवाल उठता नहीं है कि किसी दूसरी स्टेट से मदद ली जायेगी या नहीं क्योंकि रेलवेज का अपना एक खूद का तरीका काम को करने का होता है वह तरीका ही इस्तेमाल किया जायगा।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मिडिलमैन को और इस ट्रेकेदारों प्रथा को खत्म किया जायगा ?

Shri Priya Gupta: In view of the statement of the hon. Minister about the augmentation of the intermediate part of the transportation link and sending the entire transport materials up to Jogighopa, what improvements do the Railway Ministry feel have got to be made for pushing the same loads towards upper Assam, from Jogighopa to Dibrugarh side? May I know whether the broad-gauge line will be extended from Gauhati through a shorter route to upper Assam (Dibrugarh) via Golaghat with a bridge over Brahmaputra in upper Assam?

The Minister of Railways (Shri S. K. Patil): As it is, the people of Assam have set their heart on the business of having a broad-gauge line. It will come one day. But the traffic must develop and it must get the necessary priority. These measures are interim measures; not final measures. I am quite sure in due time the broad-gauge will come to Assam.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछत्राय : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह परिवहन सेवा कब तक पूरी हो जायेगी और जनता को कब तक इन की सहूलियत मिलने लग जायेगी ? इस में कितना समय लगेगा ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : अब यह रेल कम्युनिकेशन को सुदृढ़ करने और उसके विस्तार करने का काम तो चलता ही रहता है क्योंकि कभी भी वह एकदम पूरा नहीं होता है क्योंकि उसके साथ ही साथ जरूरतें भी बढ़ती चली जाती हैं इसलिए यह काम वो हमेशा चलने वाला है ।

श्री रामेश्वरमन्ध : असम में रेलों के विस्तार के जो प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं यह बहुत अच्छी बात है लेकिन क्या चीन की विस्तारवादी नीति और दबाव को देखते

हुए भारत की उत्तरी सीमाओं पर भी रेलवे का विस्तार किया जा रहा है या नहीं ?

रेलवे मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (डा० राम सुभग सिंह) : सिलीगुड़ी से जो लाइन पूर्व की ओर जाती है वह लाइन अब रंगापाड़ा से नौर्य लखीमपुर और नौर्य लखीमपुर से मरकोंग सेलक तक बढ़ाई जा रही है जो कि पासीघाट से 20 किलोमीटर या उस से कुछ अधिक है ।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that much of the transport is being taken by roads and by steam ships, is there any proposal to make the line from Bongaigaon to Jogighopa broad-gauge in order to carry the extra load?

Shri S. K. Patil: It is already in the process of becoming.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: In view of the strategic importance of the State, may I know whether in the Fourth Plan period some more new lines would be constructed in that area?

Shri Sham Nath: I have already mentioned the schemes that are in hand.

श्री शिव नारायण : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि लखनऊ से लेकर सिलीगुड़ी तक जो लाइन जाती है वह सिंगिल लाइन है और छोटी लाइन है तो क्या गवर्नमेंट इस पर भी ध्यान देगी कि इस को डबल लाइन जल्द से जल्द कर दे क्योंकि वह तमाम का तमाम बोरडर इलाका है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : लखनऊ से सिलीगुड़ी संकशन के बीच कुछ डबल लाइन है । बार्डर की रक्षा के लिये सिलीगुड़ी के प्रागे मरकोंग सेलक, जो पासीघाट के समीप है, रेल सम्बन्ध हो रहा है । फरक्का से जोगी-घोषा बड़ी लाइन बन रही है । सिंटलाइज्ड ट्रेकिंग कंट्रोल की भी व्यवस्था की जा रही है और जितना यातायात बढ़ेगा उसके अनुकूल सारी सुविधाएँ प्रदान की जायेंगी ।

Shri Liladhar Koteki: May I know whether on the occasion of the visit of the hon. Railway Minister as also of the Minister of State for Railways to Assam it was represented that the broad-gauge line should be extended up to Gauhati and, in view of the fact that the extension up to Jogighopa was in the context of defence and not so much of commercial loss or gain for the Railways, whether they are considering the extension of the broad gauge line up to Gauhati?

Shri S. K. Patil: Both the considerations are before our eyes. It is not for defence alone that it is being done, but communications also are not up to the standard in that eastern State. Therefore both these are kept in view.

Shri S. T. Singh: May I know whether the Minister of Railways has a scheme to touch at least the border of Manipur through Cachar?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: This request is being repeatedly made by the Government of Manipur. It is a fact that they are in need of some better type of communications. There are two or three railheads in the District of Cachar and we will examine as to how best to serve the needs of Manipur from there.

Shri Basumatari: In view of the frequent threatening from the Chinese, may I know whether our Minister felt it necessary that there should be a second railway line alongside the border with Bhutan which should go up to NEFA from the point of view of defence?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The line which goes from Siliguri to Murkong Selok is just near the foothills. At places it is very near Bhutan and further east it touches the area of NEFA. It is only 20 miles or so from Pasighat. The demand is that it should be extended up to Pasighat. I think, the other broad-gauge line which is under construction from

Farakka side to Jogighopa serves the purpose because there are now two links.

**Heavy Engineering Corporation,
Ranchi**

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*231. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Daljit Singh:
Shri A. P. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether final action has been taken on the report of Mr. B. Mukerjee, Retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court on the fire in the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi;

(b) if so, the number of persons punished; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid future recurrence of such incidents?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) and (b). Steps have already been taken to tighten up security arrangements, strengthen the fire fighting organization, delegate greater authority to the projects, bifurcate the Corporation for better management and re-organize the administrative set-up. Explanations for alleged lapses have been received from persons concerned and are in various stages of examination.

(c) Measures already taken to re-organise the Corporation, tighten up security arrangements and strengthen fire fighting arrangements are designed to avoid similar incidents.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In reply to a previous supplementary question by Shri Indrajit Gupta asking whether the ex-judge who carried out the enquiry into the fire incident at the