

most difficult problem. Yet, a beginning has already been made and we hope in a short period, we shall be able to show certain accomplishments.

Shri M. R. Krishna: It is said that these facilities have been given with a view to help the Harijans and other backward classes in the country. May I know whether any of these medical units or community centres have been constructed in the Harijan villages in the country?

Shri S. K. Dey: We do not wish to perpetuate the distinction between Harijans and non-Harijans.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I protest against the statement of the hon. Minister. We do not want perpetuation of untouchability, we only want the removal of untouchability. For that these centres must be located in the Harijan *cheris*. That is the way to approach the problem. We do not want perpetuation of untouchability. Excuse me, Sir, for talking like this.

Shri S. K. Dey: These amenities are always established where they are needed most.

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Minister had an opportunity to establish them in a few Harijan *cheris*?

Shri S. K. Dey: These are being done; I said no distinction is made.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister will look into it.

Shri S. K. Dey: I will

Shri Thammiah: In the community development areas, the rules for granting loans are so strict that the landless Harijan who has nothing cannot get the loan. Has Government taken any steps to see that the benefit of this loan reaches the person who has nothing and not the person who has something?

Shri S. K. Dey: We are trying to devise measures by which we can offer credit for credit-worthy purposes

rather than for credit-worthy people alone.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: What I must say is this. Every session, I am prepared to allow two or three hours for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Just somebody puts a question and the hon. Members take it up. They themselves do not put questions and do not ask for a debate or discussion of matters relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I have absolutely no objection to allow them two or three hours every session for a discussion on this matter.

Shri M. R. Krishna: Even if the *Commissioner's* report is discussed, that is quite enough.

Shri B. S. Murthy: If we put questions on this matter, people think that we want to perpetuate untouchability here. So, most of us are refraining from putting questions about Scheduled Castes.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: May I know whether, in areas where the percentage of literacy is the highest, the Government would consider diversion of funds allocated for adult education for providing more facilities to them?

Shri S. K. Dey: I could not get the whole question.

Mr. Speaker: The whole question is being considered.

New Railway Zone

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 *233 { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh
 Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Hishwanath Boy:
 Shri F. C. Bose:
 Shri Bup Narain:
 Shri H. N. Mukherjee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to create an eighth zone of

Railways comprising certain sections of the North-Eastern Railway,

(b) if so, when that zone will be created,

(c) which sections of the North-Eastern Railway will comprise that zone; and

(d) where the headquarter of that zone will be located?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No date has yet been fixed

(c) Besides the Pandu Region, it will include Katihar-Barauni section, including its connected branch lines

(d) At Pandu

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government has received any representation from the representatives of the Katihar-Barauni section to the effect that they do not want the Katihar railway district to be included in the Pandu zone?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We may have received some representation. But, the Railways do not go by the number of representations received from various people. We go by what is in the best interests of operational efficiency. We have to run the trains and we have to decide what is the best way of doing it.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: At the time when zones are being divided, may I know what steps are taken to see that Assam is not given an overdue proportion of the over-aged stock which they have today?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We are fully aware of the difficulties of Assam. We will try to do our best for them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know what will be the route mileage that would come under this new zone which will be located at Pandu?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Eventually, it will be very nearly 2,000 miles.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether, after the decision to

form the 8th zone, the Government proposes to drop the divisionalisation of the North Eastern Railway and whether they have dropped the scheme of locating the divisional headquarters in Muzaffarpur and Katihar, and what preliminary expenses were incurred to bring the two divisional headquarters to Katihar? May I have any information on that?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: It is true that we have given up the idea of divisionalisation of this Railway. Instead, we are going to have the district system. In some places where divisional offices were under construction, we stopped the construction of surplus accommodation. In Lucknow, for instance, a four storeyed building was to be constructed for the divisional office. We have now issued orders that it should be confined to only one storey.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I want to know the total expenses incurred in the building construction in Muzaffarpur and Katihar for locating the divisional headquarters.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): No expenditure will be infructuous because all the buildings which have been constructed will be utilised.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that Assam is under-developed from the economic and industrial point of view, would the Government consider the proposal to link up the State with the port at Calcutta by including the Sealdah division within the ambit of the proposed zone?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It will not be possible.

Central Board of Transport

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*294. { Shri Punnoose:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Transport did not