

Office of the District Controller of Stores, Negapatam, Madras State on the 31st July, 1957 about upgrading of posts of clerical staff; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action on the same?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The requests of the staff concerned have been considered but not found justified.

Santa Cruz Air Port

***873. Shri Kamalnayan Bajaj:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that looking to the immediate future requirement, it is necessary to extend the boundaries and the Air Strips of the Santa Cruz Airport;

(b) if so, whether further lands are being acquired;

(c) what will be the likely cost of the compensation payable to (i) Bombay Corporation and (ii) other parties; and

(d) the names of the industrial concerns whose lands are likely to be acquired?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Roughly, it is estimated at Rs. 123 lakhs, but the actual amount of compensation will be determined by the Land Acquisition Authorities in due course.

(d) 1. All India Glass Works (Private) Ltd

2. Vijay Industries.

3. Siesta Corporation.

4. Kamani Engineering Corporation (Private) Ltd.

5. Kamani Metal Alloys (Private) Ltd.

6 Bharat Silk Mills (Private) Ltd.

Poona-Bangalore Line

***876. Shri Mohammed Imam:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to convert the Meter gauge section between Poona and Bangalore to Broad gauge; and

(b) what would be the total cost of such conversion?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to convert the Poona-Bangalore section to Broad Gauge. However, the conversion of Poona-Miraj portion to B.G. is being investigated as an alternative to Khurudwadi-Miraj N G. Conversion.

Compensation for Railway Accident Victims

***877. Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount of compensation, if any, paid so far to the victims of Asansol, Katpadi and Kanpur explosions?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): An amount of Rs. 2,200 has been paid as interim relief

An amount of Rs. 27,000 has also been deposited with the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation concerned for disbursement to the parties entitled thereto.

National Extension Service Blocks in Orissa

***878. Shri B. C. Mullick:** Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government have requested the Government of India for sanction of money to open some National Extension Service Blocks in Orissa in January, 1958; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?