

(b) whether they have also suggested that the Cash Office should be split; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

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

(b) Yes. It has been suggested by the Bank that the earnings of various stations may be tendered at the nearest Branch of the Bank acting as their Agents, or, as an alternative, earnings of stations falling within particular regions or areas may be deposited in specific Branches of the Bank;

(c) A proposal from the Railway to set up one more Regional Cash Office at Jhansi in addition to the existing two Cash Offices at Bombay and Secunderabad has recently been accepted by the Railway Board.

Chilka Lake

***993. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 860 on the 17th August, 1957 in respect of the Chilka lake and state:

(a) whether any progress has since been made in this behalf; and

(b) if so, what?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). The State Government have stated that for developing the lake as a tourist centre they are considering the question of purchasing the Rambha Palace belonging to the Raja Bahadur of Khallikote which is situated on the shores of the lake.

Scheme at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

***997. Shri Yadav:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that regular training of the trainees in the Technical Training Scheme at the Hindustan Shipyard has not been

started yet, although the trainees have been receiving stipends from the Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the trainees have complained about the arrangements for their training and the inadequacy of the stipends being paid to them; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken on these complaints?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) No. The training commenced in January, 1957 and the first batch of trainees has already completed ten months in a course of eighteen months duration.

(b) and (c). The main grievances of the trainees relating to messing facilities and inadequacy of stipends have already been examined. Proper messing facilities have now been arranged through a caterer. As regards stipends, the question is now before Board of Directors.

Enquiry into an Aircraft Accident

***1001. Shri Matin:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 186 on the 15th November, 1957 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pilot of Aero-45 aircraft which crashed near Bhiwandi on the 27th September, 1957 had no pilot licence;

(b) if so, the circumstances under which he was allowed to take off from Bombay;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Certificate of Airworthiness for this aircraft was issued on the strength of the pilot's signature after he had made the test flights as per existing regulations though he was not qualified to perform these tests; and

(d) if so, the circumstances under which he was allowed to do these test flights?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur

Shastri: (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 128.]

Agricultural Production in Tripura

*1003. **Shri Bangahl Thakur**: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the production in Tripura this year is not at all satisfactory and that somewhere it is less than 50%, somewhere 35% and somewhere 25% as compared to the previous year; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this matter?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Estimates of production of crops grown in Tripura territory are not yet available. However, according to preliminary estimates relating to acreage, it is estimated that the area under cotton, jute and rice during the current year may be lower by about 5, 11 and 10 per cent respectively as compared to last year. Area under sugarcane is, however, expected to be about 4 per cent. higher than that of last year.

(b) Improved seeds have been distributed to the cultivators for increasing agricultural production. Steps have also been taken to put the maximum area under summer paddy, rabi pulses and other rabi crops.

Diversion of Railway Line

*1005 { **Shri Radha Mohan Singh**:
Shri Sarju Pandey:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any diversion of the Railway line between Suraimanpur and Reoti Stations of the North Eastern Railway has been proposed;

(b) if so, whether the U.P. Government have been consulted in the matter as promised by him; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to prevent the erosion by the River Ghogra at that place?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) A diversion of the Railway line has been proposed between Bakulha and Reoti Stations and not between Suraimanpur & Reoti Stations.

(b) Yes.

(c) The site of erosion was jointly inspected by a number of experts including Chief Engineer, Irrigation, U.P., Chief Engineer, Floods, C.W.P.C. and Chief Engineer, Railway and Director, C.W.P.C., Research Station, Poona. It was considered that 10 to 12 spurs should be constructed on this embayment and the Railway should for the present get back to a retired alignment.

Over-bridge in Delhi

*1006. **Shri Vajpayee**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 699 on the 31st May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the reconstruction of the railway overbridge at Lahori Gate, Delhi has since been completed; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The work on this over-bridge is being done jointly by the Railway and the Road Authorities. The Railway portion of the work has been completed. A part of the work of widening the road surface is yet to be completed by the P.W.D., as also the widening of the approaches. The work of the P.W.D. is held up due to certain difficulties in obtaining vacant possession of the land required for widening.