

Air Service between Delhi and Kulu via Chandigarh on the basis that the Punjab Government would meet the deficit in the operation of such a service. The Corporation intend to operate the Service as soon as certain improvements being carried out to the airstrip at Bhuntar are completed.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know by what date it will be started?

Shri Mohiuddin: I cannot lay down a date. There are certain improvements to be carried out at the landing place in that area, and we are taking steps to finish the improvements as early as possible.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether this service will be started by the time the Dusserah Fair takes place there?

Shri Mohiuddin: I have said, Sir, that it is not possible to indicate any time for the starting of the service. We will expedite it.

श्री क्या सेवा क्या इस सर्विस द्वारा केवल यात्रियों के आने जाने की सुविधा होगी या कुल्लू के सेवा वगैरह भी इधर आ सकेंगे और दूसरा सामान आ सकेगा ?

श्री सुहीजद्दीन पेंसेजर और कार्गो दोनों के लिये यह सर्विस होगी ।

श्री हेम राज स्थिति का जो इलाका है और वहा का जो मौसम है उसमें वहा तीन महीने ही काम करने के होते हैं । क्या पंजाब गवर्नमेंट ने सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट से यह प्रार्थना की थी कि यह सर्विस स्थिति ले जाई जाये ताकि वहा पर सामान बन्द पर पहुच सके और वहा पर काम सबको वगैरह का हो सके ?

श्री सुहीजद्दीन मुझे तो यह मालूम नहीं है कि पंजाब गवर्नमेंट ने कोई स्वाहिसा बाहिर की है कि किसी खास तरीके से सर्विस को शुरू किया जाये । मुम्किन है कि उन्होंने इसकी स्वाहिसा की हो कि जल्दी से जल्दी इधको शुरू किया जाये, लेकिन चूकि

हवाई जहाज का यह मामला है, इसलिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा एहतियात करनी पडती है ।

Shri Hem Raj: My question is something else. In view of the fact that the Spiti Valley is cut off for nine months and the working season is only for three months, I wanted to know whether the Punjab Government had requested the Central Government for extending the service up to Spiti for carrying materials for building roads?

Shri Mohiuddin: No, that request is not there. The proposed service is only up to Bhuntar.

Chandbali Port

*1193. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 4132 on the 6th May, 1959 regarding Chandbali Port and state—

(a) whether any decision has since been taken regarding export of rice from Chandbali Port, and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The matter is still under consideration

(b) Does not arise

Shri Sanganna: In reply to the question on the previous occasion the hon Minister was pleased to state that an officer of the Transport Ministry had been deputed to make a survey of the rivers of Dharma and Baitarni and the officer in return has made a report which has been sent to the Government of Orissa for its opinion. May I know whether the opinion of the Government of Orissa has been received?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Since then the matter has been under discussion with the State Government to find out some *via media* to cover the difference in cost of transport by the sea route

as compared to the road route, and that is still under consideration.

Shri Sanganna: Are the Government aware that if rice is sent from the Chandbali Port it will be more economical than rice being sent by train to West Bengal?

Shri Raj Bahadur: According to the figures that I have, transport charges by sea come to Rs 106 nP freighter, plus Rs 021 nP port charges, that is Rs 127 nP in all per maund, as compared to the railway freight of Rs 053 nP per maund. The difference of Rs 053 nP plus port charges per maund has got to be made up.

Shri Mahanty: This question has been hanging fire since May last. How long do Government propose to take to come to a decision on this matter?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Food Ministry, I think very rightly, insisted that we should save in the cost of transport so far as foodgrains are concerned. Therefore they have asked the State Governments to make good the difference between the cost of freight by rail and sea.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that because of this delay in deciding this matter, large quantities of rice and paddy are being smuggled by traders through this Port also, which is a loss to the Government?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I am not aware of that, but it seems to be rather improbable because evidently the cost of transport by sea is higher than the cost of transport by road-cum-rail route, and even a smuggler will not find it profitable or economical to do so. Even so I take the information and I will pass it on to them.

Shri Mahanty: What will be the average excess that the State Government is being asked to bear?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have just now indicated that the State Government have been asked to make good the difference of Rs 053 nP per maund, plus the port charges as well.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether Government will be pleased to lay on the Table of the House the survey report of the special officer who has been sent for the purpose?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to know whether the report will be laid on the Table of the House?

Shri Raj Bahadur: If that is desired, I will consider it.

Train Accident at Gauhati

*1194. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a shuttle train carrying North Frontier Railway Employees from Gauhati to the Maligaon Railway Head Office was involved in an accident on the 1st August in the Gauhati Town Area; and

(b) if so, the causes of this mishap and the number of casualties?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, but it occurred on the Ujan Bazar Ghat Siding near the Noonmati Level Crossing in the Gauhati Town Area while the staff shuttle was proceeding to Gauhati Railway station.

(b) The facmg points not having been clamped and locked 23 persons were injured of whom, three received grievous injuries.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know if any steps have been taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such accidents?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We have taken every precaution against accidents. In spite of that sometimes they do happen.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Is it a fact that the North-East Frontier Railway's main line passes through the busiest and the most congested part of Gauhati City for which reason these accidents occur?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: So far as this is concerned, the running of the