

a proposal of building up a body of consultants for tendering advice to the Central and State Governments on technical problems relating to port developments and inland water transport;

(b) if so, when it is to start functioning; and

(c) what are the present difficulties the State Governments are experiencing in carrying out port development projects?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Yes. As the scheme is in the initial stages of formulation, it is not possible to give any definite indication at present as to its final shape and when it is likely to start functioning.

(c) So far as the major ports are concerned the problems are chiefly engineering problems. In the sphere of minor ports and Inland Water Transport, which are primarily the concern of State Governments, the problems pertain mainly to development, engineering, traffic and non-availability of technical personnel.

Suspension of Railway Officers

*411. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 652 on the 21st August, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the Special Police Establishment have since concluded their investigations into the construction work executed under the supervision of the Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction) and a District Engineer of the South Eastern Railway which was later found to be below standard specifications; and

(b) if so, what are their findings?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The investigation still continues.

Conversion of Railway Line to Broad Gauge

*412. **Shri Rajagopala Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Renigunta-Tirupati metre gauge railway into broad gauge in view of the growing importance of Tirupati as the biggest pilgrim centre in the South and in view of the short distance involved; and

(b) if so, when the work will be taken up?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a). A preliminary examination of such a proposal is being made.

(b). This question is premature at this stage.

Strike by Seamen in Calcutta Port

*419. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) if there was any strike by seamen in Calcutta Port in October 1959; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a). Yes Sir, the seamen at Calcutta Port staged a token strike on the 15th October, 1959.

(b). The strike was staged for an increase in wages, regulation of hours of work and payment of overtime wages.

Development of Kakinada Port

*420. **Shri Madhusudan Rao:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 372 on the 7th August 1959 and state:

(a) whether Kakinada port is being considered for development as all weather port during the remaining

period of the Second Five Year Plan: and

(b) if so, how long it will take to execute the work on the project?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The intermediate Ports Development Committee set up by the Government of India to select suitable intermediate ports for intensive development is *inter alia* examining the question of development of Kakinada port. The Committee is expected to submit its report by March, 1960, after which the question of development of Kakinada as an all weather port will be considered.

Claims for Less than Rs 5

*421. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated amount of claims made on Railways each year in respect of claims of the value of rupees five or less each;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has, by a circular, asked the business community not to press claims of the value of rupees five or less; and

(c) if so, how it will be possible to bring down the theft or loss of railway parcels upto the value of rupees five and bring the culprits to book if the Railways want no claims to be preferred therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a). About Rs. 30,000.

(b). Yes; but where the claimants insist the claims are examined and disposed of on merits.

(c) Arrangements for security of the parcels and goods are not dependent on payment or repudiation of the claims. Further persons apprehended for theft or pilferage are dealt with irrespective of whether the

amount involved is small or large and whether a claim is preferred or not.

Level Crossings at Bikaner Station

*423. **Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1807 on the 29th August, 1959 and state whether any decision has since been taken on the three alternative proposals said to have been received to remove the hardships caused to public of Bikaner due to the level crossings remaining closed for hours together?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): Not yet Sir. The issue is still under examination. It is not correct, however, that the level crossings remain closed for hours together.

कोसी नदी के तटबन्ध

प्र. *४२५. श्री श्रीनारायण दास : क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत् मंत्री १७ दिसम्बर, १९५८ के ताराकित प्रश्न संख्या ११३४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) बिहार में कोसी नदी पर १९५८ में बनाये गये पश्चिमी तटबन्ध को और बढाने के प्रस्ताव के सम्बन्ध में इस बीच क्या कोई निर्णय किया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ तो उसका व्योम क्या है ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत् उपमंत्री (श्री हाथी) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

T.B. Clinics in the Country

{ Shri Subodh Hansda:
*427. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
{ Shri R. C. Majhi:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Tuberculosis Clinics which have been set up in