

modifications. They are at present under scrutiny and, as I said, as soon as they are sanctioned tenders will be invited.

**Shri C. K. Bhattacharya:** May I remind the hon. Minister that he was himself in a communication to me assured me that the work will be taken up during the Second Plan?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I am not resiling from any of the statements that I have made in the letter. I have said that on receiving his letter I wrote to the Chief Minister and he has been good enough to revise his earlier decision and has sent us back the estimates which are under scrutiny. I cannot exactly vouchsafe that this shall be commenced by the end of the Second Plan, but we shall try to take all possible steps in that direction.

**Shri Hem Barua:** On a point of order, Sir. Should private correspondence between hon. Ministers and hon. Members of Parliament be made public like that? In that case hon. Ministers would refuse to write to us any more.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister has not complained.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I have not complained.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** In view of the fact that estimates are more or less ready, how long will it take now to start the work?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The modified estimate was received on the 13th June, 1960 from the Government of West Bengal. As I said, it is under technical scrutiny. It takes time for calculation, checking up all the various results and data and all that.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** This is August. Surely by December at least the work should be started.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I will take note of the interest.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Dredging in Hooghly

\*657. { Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:  
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 924 on the 16th December 1959 and state the further steps which have been taken for dumping ashore the dredged spoil by Calcutta Port Commissioners dredgers operating in the river Hooghly?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** The new Suction Dredger which is at present under construction in the United Kingdom is being provided with facilities to pump dredged spoil ashore. The United Nations' expert on dredging at present assigned to the Calcutta Port has also been requested to draw up a detailed scheme for dumping the dredged spoil ashore.

### Assam Rail Link

\*658. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 933 on the 18th March, 1960 and state:

(a) the further progress made so far in the construction of the alternative Assam Rail Link; and

(b) when is the actual construction likely to be started?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shrimati Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) The Railway has almost completed the Project report and estimates. Meanwhile it has been decided to survey another alternative alignment which will be done during the next cold weather.

(b) A decision regarding the construction of the link can be taken only after the Project Reports and Estimates have been received and examined by the Board.