

(d) whether the contract has been renewed for another three years?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Yes, beyond 31-12-1960.

Tampering with Railway Track near Maniharighat

***1071. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether fish-plates from the railway track near Maniharighat were found to have been removed on the night of the 3rd December, 1960;

(b) whether there was any serious accident averted by the timely discovery of the removal of fish-plates;

(c) who was responsible for their removal; and

(d) whether the gangman who averted the accident is being suitably rewarded?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Not known so far. The matter is however, under police investigation.

(d) The question of reward, if any, will be considered after the result of police investigation is known.

Stoppage of Booking on S.E. Railway

{ Shri Subodh Hansda:
*1072. { Shri N. B. Maiti:
 { Shri R. C. Majhi:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger booking on the South Eastern Railway from Gidni, Jharagram, Surdiha and Chakulia Stations, both for up and down trains, has been stopped recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether stoppage of passenger booking during such time every year is an annual feature; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to remove the difficulty?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes Sir, only on two occasions i.e. on 26-11-60 by Sambalpur-Howrah Passenger and on 8-12-60 by Hazari-bagh—Ranchi—Howrah Express.

(b) Due to heavy overcrowding and with a view to avoid undue inconvenience to passengers.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Haldia-Khargpur Line

***1073. Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 2,000 villages in the Midnapore District of West Bengal have been notified on the 17th November, 1960 in connection with the proposed construction of the Khargpur-Haldia rail link;

(b) whether the inhabitants of these notified villages are to be evicted in future; and

(c) if so, whether any programme for phasing of the operation and compensation for those affected has been prepared?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) The Civil Authorities were requested to issue a notification for the purpose of survey and it was issued accordingly. The survey has however not been taken in hand pending a decision by the Planning Commission in the matter.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.