

Dock Workers' Strike

*168. **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a strike of Dock Workers in Bombay; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 6].

P. & T. Employees in West Bengal

*170. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for not giving House Rent and city compensatory allowance to all the Central Government employees of Posts and Telegraphs working in the greater industrial belt of Calcutta from Birlapur to Kalyani in West Bengal;

(b) why these allowances are limited only to workers in Baranagore, Dum Dum and North Barrackpore Municipality in Barrackpur sub-division of 24-Parganas and not to workers in other Municipalities in the same sub-division; and

(c) whether this matter is being reviewed?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) The Municipalities in the belt mentioned do not justify classification as "A" class cities.

(b) Baranagore and Dum Dum municipalities are contiguous to Calcutta and North Barrackpore has been given on special consideration.

(c) No.

Firing by Hostile Nagas on Train

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Naga hostiles fired on the 63 Up passenger

train of the N.F. Railway on or about the 21st January, 1962 between Bokajan and Noajan on Lumding-Tinsukia section;

(b) if so, how many casualties were involved in the incident; and

(c) what action has been taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The incident, however, occurred on the evening of 19th January, 1962, wherein only one passenger travelling in second class was slightly injured.

(c) The following preventive measures have been adopted:—

(i) military patrolling on vulnerable sections has been intensified;

(ii) more army outposts have been set up to protect the vulnerable areas;

(iii) trains are escorted by armed military and R.P.F. personnel;

(iv) steel plated shutters and sand bags have been provided on trains to protect crew and Railway staff.

Paradip Port

*174. { **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:**
Shri A. Sarma:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa have appointed with the consent of the Government of India, Messrs Rendel Palmer and Tritton as their consulting Engineers for the preparation of the Master Plan for immediately developing Paradip as a major port in the Third Plan;

(b) whether Government are aware that the details for the designing of Paradip as a major port are ready;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry have examined these details and have approved it for immediate implementation in the Third Plan;

(d) whether Government have been pleased to give priority to Paradip for developing it as a major port in the Third Plan; and

(e) if so, what is the actual position?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). At the request of the Government of Orissa, the Government of India agreed in December, 1961 to release foreign exchange not exceeding ten thousand pounds for payment of fees to Messrs. Rendel Palmer, and Tritton to prepare a project study for the development of Paradip Port.

The Government of India have not so far received a copy of the Consulting Engineers' Project Report from the State Government.

(c), (d) and (e). Do not arise.

National Highways

***176. Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to standardise the width of National Highways;

(b) if so, how far it has been carried out;

(c) what is the position of the National Highways while passing through towns; and

(d) how many such towns are affected by National Highway No. 7?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The following standards for the width of the national highways have been fixed:

formation width: 38 ft.;
single lane carriageway width: 12 ft.; and
double lane carriageway width: 22 ft.;

(c) So far the Government of India have not assumed financial liability for national highways passing through towns having a population of 20,000 or more. According to Section 8 of the National Highway Act the Government of India would assume this liability by entering into agreements with any State or with any authority entrusted with the control or management of any such area. So far such agreement has been entered into with the Government of Orissa. The matter regarding such agreements with other States and authorities is in progress.

(d) Twenty six towns having population of 20,000 or more are likely to be affected by this scheme on National Highway No. 7

Wagon supply for Manoharpur and Chirea Iron Ore Mines

***181. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) why box wagons supply for the Manoharpur and Chirea iron ore mines is not being made;

(b) whether a large number of the Adivasi loading labour are sitting idle due to this; and

(c) when the wagons will be supplied?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Chirea Mines are served by Manoharpur Railway station. BOX wagons are not supplied at Manoharpur as the mine owners, Messrs Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. have not agreed to accept BOX wagons in spite of repeated requests from the Railway.

(b) The Railway is not aware of this.

(c) BOX type wagons can be supplied whenever the same are accepted by the Steel Works.