

Railwaymen and the Railway Board was continued on issues as framed by the One-man Tribunal and included under item I of the Terms of Reference to the Tribunal.

Laying of Coaxial Cables

*1561. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh. Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation to stop the implementation of the project of laying down underground coaxial cables; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Breaches on Railway Line

*1562. Shri Bagnunath Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to rains train services between Pathankot and Madhopur and Jogendra Nagar have been suspended; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that train services are not interrupted due to rains?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(i) for about 5 hours on 18-8-1957 on the Pathankot-Madhupur Section due to rains; and

(ii) for about 2 hours on 22-8-1957 on the Pathankot-Jogindernagar Section due to a big boulder having fallen on the line. The train services on the section has again been dislocated from 3-9-1957 due to slips between Kangra and Kopalrahar and is likely to continue for about a week.

(b) On Pathankot-Madhupur Section necessity for more waterway for bridges in which flood passed above danger mark is being investigated.

Extensive patrolling is done at such places as are liable to slips etc. to safeguard working of trains and carry out repairs so that detention to trains is minimised.

Mechanisation of Country Boats

*1563. Shri Yajnik: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to speed up and mechanise the transport of passengers and goods that are traditionally being carried by small boats and country crafts on the Eastern and Western coasts of India; and

(b) the amount that has been earmarked for carrying out during the Second Plan period the necessary measures, stating the amounts of the money to be spent on the different sectors of the Indian Coastal traffic?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). It is presumed that the Hon. Member is referring to the question of mechanisation of sailing vessels. If so, it may be stated that a provision of Rs. 40 lakhs has been included in the Second Five Year Plan for the mechanisation of about two hundred sailing vessels. No detailed scheme for the grant of financial assistance to sailing vessels' owners who are desirous of mechanising their vessels has, however, been drawn up yet pending the enactment of legislation for giving necessary powers to Government to control the sailing vessels industry. It is proposed to incorporate suitable provisions to cover the sailing vessels industry in the consolidated Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, which is expected to be ready shortly for introduction in Parliament.

Decentralisation on Railways

*1564. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by the Railway Board during the year

1955-56 and 1956-57 to give effect to its policy of decentralisation in the administration;

(b) what additional powers have been delegated and are proposed to be delegated to the officers in the field entrusted with the execution of works and projects; and

(c) what paper work in returns and reports has been cut down?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 82.]

Kopilli River Multipurpose Project

*1565. **Shri Liladhar Kotaki:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the results of the preliminary investigations for the Kopilli River multi-purpose project; and

(b) whether Government propose to take up immediately execution of the irrigation part of the project in view of urgency to increase food production?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) A tentative multi-purpose Project on Kopilli River was outlined, which was estimated to yield 1,25,000 KW of power and irrigation benefits for about 2.52 lakh acres and also flood protection. Detailed investigations are now in progress.

(b) The feasibility of the project will be known only after the investigations have been completed and a project report prepared.

Porbander-Rajkot National Highway

*1566. **Shri Nathavani:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the construction of the National High-

way No. 8-B between Porbander and Rajkot;

(b) the approximate cost that will be incurred in the construction of the above section; and

(c) how long will it take to construct it?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The road already exists. A provision of Rs. 103 lakhs has, however, been made in the current Five Year Plan for the improvement of certain sections to the required standards and for providing two missing bridges across the rivers Minsar and Vadai. Estimates totalling Rs. 42.72 lakhs for the construction of the bridge across Minsar and other works of improvement have been sanctioned by the Government of India. Most of these works are in progress. Subject to availability of funds all works are expected to be completed during the current plan period.

Safety of Rail Tracks

*1567. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has proposed to all the State Governments that a Standing Committee of Engineers should be set up in each State to keep under constant review matters affecting the safety of railway track and bridges against floods and heavy rains; and

(b) if so, what progress has been made so far?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committees have been formed in the States of Bombay, Bihar, Kerala, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal and in the remaining States, the Committees are in the process of formation.