

river bank occurred in the last week of July, 1957, due to heavy rains for a few days. Only one house was damaged, to standing crops being negligible. The breaches were closed quickly by the Public Works Department with the co-operation of the local villagers and the National Cadet Corps. Such minor breaches are unavoidable during heavy rains and the Public Works Department have arrangements to deal with them if and when they occur. No distress was caused and, as such, no relief measures were necessary.

**Shri L. Achaw Singh:** In view of the fact that every year floods occur due to breaches in the river embankments, may I know whether Government are considering the question of finding out a permanent and effective means of controlling the floods there?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The floods in the Manipur Valley are not of a type where we should really be afraid of these breaches. According to the information that we have received, the annual discharge is not so great as to necessitate the taking of big-size measures in hand immediately, but even then, the matter is under consideration as to how this problem could be tackled.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Railway Board

**\*792 Shri Vasudevan Nair:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of Members of the Railway Board recently increased to deal with development work during Second Five Year Plan,

(b) the additional annual expenditure consequent on the new increase in strength of the Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that the new Members are not admitted to the meetings of the regular Railway Board; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan):** (a) to (d). The number of Members of the Railway Board has not been increased recently. 5 posts of Additional Members have been sanctioned. The total annual expenditure on this account is Rs 3 lakhs, including expenditure on staff attached to the Additional Members. Since they are not full Members of the Railway Board, they do not attend regular meetings of the Board except where their presence is required.

##### Calcutta Seamen

**\*795. Shri Biren Roy:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state.

(a) the strength of different Seamen's Unions in Calcutta in terms of membership as has been assessed through the registration of Seamen at the Calcutta Seamen Employment Office, and

(b) whether a copy of the recommendations made by the Seamen's Welfare Board and the decision of Government in regard thereto will be laid on the Table of the Sabha?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No such statistics are available from the registration documents as the Seamen do not always indicate their affiliation to specific unions while registering themselves at the Seamen's Employment Office.

(b) The National Welfare Board for Seafarers has not yet submitted its recommendations to Government.

##### Ferry Crafts on Brahmaputra

**\*797. Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 738 on the 31st May, 1957 and state

(a) whether Government have scrutinised the tenders for the purchase of