

diverting the Bandel-Barharwa Loop line from the Dhuliyān Ganges Railway Station towards Barharwa by a new route have been completed?

(b) Have the opinions of the Railway and Irrigation Engineers been ascertained about the suitability of the new route-alignment so as to ensure reasonable safety from the threat of erosion by the River Ganges as in the Dhuliyān—Tildanga Sector?

(c) Have the authorities of the Eastern Railways received any representations in this respect from the inhabitants of the Dhuliyān—Tildanga area in the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Survey for a diversion was duly carried out but final decision in regard to the laying of this diversion is dependent on the future trend of the river course.

(b) Yes; but it has not been possible to arrive at a definite conclusion as the behaviour of the river continues to be uncertain.

(c) No such representation has come to our notice in the recent past.

PARTICIPATION OF RAILWAYMEN IN PEACE CONVENTIONS

*494. Shri Nambiar: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Deputy General Manager of the former E.I.R. has issued a ban on participation of Railwaymen in Peace Conventions and similar other meetings?

(b) Do Government propose to withdraw the ban?

(c) Does the ban also cover the meetings organised by the Indian National Congress and its units?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Railway employees are not expected to take part in meetings, conferences, etc., sponsored by organisations which directly or indirectly indulge in political propaganda or in activities directed against Government. No exception is made to this general principle in the case of any political organisation.

FOOD RESEARCH COUNCIL, MYSORE

*495. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture

be pleased to state the amount of money spent on the Food Research Council at Mysore so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): No Food Research Council has been set up under the auspices of the Government of India at Mysore.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT NEAR KATIHAR

*497. Shri S. M. Ghose: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there was an accident at Katihar Junction on the 13th October, 1952 at about 12-30 P.M.?

(b) Is it a fact that the accident was due to Railway employees indulging in negligent fly-shunting as a result of which a guard's van and another coach were hurled fall-tilt against stationary bogies which were full of passengers?

(c) How many persons received injuries, and was there any death due to this accident?

(d) Has any compensation been given to the injured or to their relatives, if any?

(e) Have the employees of the Railway who were responsible for the accident been appraised and if so, what is the nature of punishments meted out to them?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The third class cum-luggage-brake carriage, which was the last vehicle on 241 Up passenger train, was being shunted back to the train after the carriage next to it with its hot-axle had been left on another line, and in the course of this shunting the coupling of the former carriage slipped from the hook of the shunting engine and the carriage thus rolled back and dashed into the rear of the stationary train. It was, therefore, not a case of negligent fly-shunting.

(c) 21 persons received minor injuries. There were no deaths.

(d) No claim has so far been received from any of the injured.

(e) The shunting Porter who carried out the shunting operations, has been held responsible for failure to couple up properly the vehicle to the shunting engine. He has been arrested by the Police for prosecution.