

GUNTUR-REPALLE BRANCH LINE

*771. **Shri Raghuramalah**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether ticketless travel is on the increase on the Guntur-Repalle Branch Line in Madras State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the trains running on that line are not keeping up the timings announced in the time-table; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to stop the ticketless travel and ensure the proper running of trains on that line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Ticketless travel on the Guntur-Repalle Branch Line of the Southern Railway has lately decreased.

(b) Their punctuality is not what it should be.

(c) All trains running on the section are now manned by a Travelling Ticket Examiner.

As regards punctuality of trains, improvement will be effected with the conversion of Kolluru Road into a crossing station, which work is now in hand, and also with the utilisation of the new engines which are expected early in 1953.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ASSAM RAIL LINK

*772. **Shri Amjad Ali**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount of money so far spent for making temporary arrangements for running the trains over the Assam Rail Link on account of breaches of the rail-road and bridges during the floods in June-July of 1952?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): About Rs. 12 lakhs have been spent on temporary repairs and other arrangements on this section.

ASSAM RAIL LINK

*773. **Shri Amjad Ali**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred in construction and maintenance of the so called "Hidden works" for protect-

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ing the bridges and rail-roads from the onrush of waters from the Himalayan regions in the Assam Rail Link since its inception; and

(b) how far it has been a good protective measure in that line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) About Rs. 20,000/- on two hidden works and about Rs. 2,000/- on their maintenance.

(b) The works have proved very effective.

WOMEN WORKERS IN TEA GARDENS

*774. **Shri K. P. Tripathi**: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to his answer given to starred question No. 2096 asked on the 24th July, 1952 regarding women workers in Tea Gardens and state:

(a) what information, if any, Government have collected, as was promised;

(b) whether Government have reconsidered the whole position;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of women workers have been thrown out of employment since the decision of the tribunal; and

(d) what steps, if any, Government propose to take to relieve the distress?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) In Assam, 11,223 women are working along with their husbands in 98 tea gardens other than those in the membership of the Indian Tea Association. In West Bengal, the number of such women workers in 41 tea gardens in Jalpaiguri District under the Indian Tea Planters' Association is 10,590. Further information is being collected by the State Governments.

(c) Information regarding the number of women workers discharged since the decision of the Tribunal is not readily available and is being collected through the State Governments concerned.

(b) and (d). Government have been considering the matter, but cannot see how, in view of the considerations mentioned in the reply to part (a) of question No. 2096, Government can interfere with the discretion of management.

TEA LABOURERS

*775. **Shri K. P. Tripathi**: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Tea Association has issued a