

(e) No final decision has yet been taken on this proposal.

**RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT MUZAFFARPUR RAILWAY STATION**

\*1557. **Shri Ram Dhanj Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the 9th March, 1953 the 22 Down Prayag Passenger train collided with the engine of another standing Up Passenger train while entering the Muzaffarpur Railway Station?

(b) If so, what were the causes of the collision?

(c) What are the number of injured persons and other losses, if any?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan**): (a) Yes. At about 1-10 hours on 9th March 1953, No. 22 Down Prayag Passenger collided at Muzaffarpur station with No. 21 Up Passenger which was standing on the line on which 22 Down entered.

(b) *Prima facie* the accident was due to 22 Down running against signals.

(c) Six persons including the Guard of 22 Down received minor injuries. The approximate cost of damage to Railway property was Rs. 500.

**Dak Sewak SCHEME**

\*1559. **Shri Jangde:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the *Dak Sewak* scheme is being expanded by Government?

(b) What steps are being made to facilitate the expansion of the *Dak Sewak* Scheme in rural areas?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) and (b). The whole question whether the scheme should be continued or discontinued, either in the present or a modified form, is under examination.

**JANTA EXPRESS BETWEEN HOWRAH AND BOMBAY**

\*1560. **Shri B. N. Misra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to run the Janta Express between Howrah and Bombay via Nagpur;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The train service is intended to be introduced when improvement in the position in respect of availability of coaching stock and locomotives permits of it.

(c) Does not arise.\*

**LOCAL TRAINS BETWEEN DONGARGARH AND BILASPUR**

\*1561. **Shri B. N. Misra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to run local trains between Dongargarh and Bilaspur on the Eastern Railway, which has been suspended since the last War; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan**): (a) and (b). The train service is intended to be restored when improvement in the position in respect of availability of coaching stock and locomotives permits of it and provided there is then traffic justification for it.

**HINDI TELEGRAMS**

\*1572. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether arrangements will be made for sending telegrams in Hindi in the telegraph offices in rural areas in the year 1953-54?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): Hindi telegraph service is at present available in 104 stations. Orders have also been passed for extending the service as fast and as wide as possible. It would of course be extended to rural areas during the current year.

**FIRE TO DIESEL CAR BOUND FROM HYDERABAD TO BIDAR**

\*1583. **Shri P. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Diesel Car bound from Hyderabad to Bidar on the 6th April, 1953, on the Central Railway, was completely burnt down near Sanatnagar station and if so, what are the circumstances under which this accident happened;

(b) what was the extent of damage to life and property as a result of this accident;