

SUGAR PRICES IN WEST BENGAL

***1029. Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that imported sugar is not being sold at the same rate throughout West Bengal as stated by him at the time of demanding supplementary grants; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to see that sugar is sold at the same rate in Calcutta and rural areas of West Bengal?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). At the time of obtaining the Supplementary Grant during the last session of the House, it was stated that imported sugar would be supplied at 12 annas and 6 pies per seer in Calcutta and other areas in Bengal. Enquiries made from Bengal Government reveal that imported sugar is selling at this rate both in Calcutta and rural areas.

LOCOMOTIVES IN SEALDAH DIVISION

***1030. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of over-age locomotives (older than 40 years) at present utilised in the Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railway;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent instances of drivers in the said Division refusing to take out superannuated locomotives but yet are compelled by order to do so; and

(c) whether Government's attention has also been drawn towards cases of breakdown of passenger traffic in consequence of the employment of such locomotives, and assault by inconvenienced passengers on drivers and firemen?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Approximately 35 per cent.

(b) No such instance has been reported.

(c) A few cases of interference have been reported and certain further particulars have been called for.

CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT STAFF

***1031. Shri Vallatharas:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the percentage of the staff that is temporary in the Civil Aviation Department and the reasons for keeping them temporary?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): 16.9 per cent. of the gazetted and 62.3 per cent. of the non-gazetted staff in the Civil Aviation Department are temporary. They are temporary partly because the posts themselves are temporary and partly because till recently the staff in the department was subject to the general ban on confirmation of personnel. This ban has recently been partially relaxed to enable a proportion of the posts in the Department to be filled substantively and action is in progress to confirm suitable persons against the available vacancies.

SULTANPUR JAFRABAD RAILWAY LINE

***1032. Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction work of Sultanpur-Jafrabad Railway line has commenced; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 73.]

AFFORESTATION POLICY

***1033. Shri Kanavade Patil:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken by the Government

of India to implement the re-forestation plans as envisaged under the provisions of Government of India's Forest Policy Resolution of 12th May, 1952?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The National Forest Policy is, as stated in para. 34 thereof, only an enunciation of general principles, which the States have been requested to observe in framing their policies and legislation for the conservation of their forest resources. Forestry is a State subject. The Central Board of Forestry, at which all the States are represented at the Ministerial level, has endorsed this Policy. The Board's resolutions on the subject are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 74.]

LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS IN TRAINS

*1034. { Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Sanganna:

(a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the comments in the regional press regarding the inadequate lighting in the passenger trains on the East Coast of the Eastern Railways have been brought to the notice of Government?

(b) If so, have any steps been taken to improve this situation and if so, what are they?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Inadequate lighting in the passenger trains on the East Coast of the Eastern Railway has been due to the high incidence of theft of train lighting dynamo belts in spite of precautions on the part of the Watch and Ward and Railway Protection Police, who, with the Civil Police Authorities, are taking such concerted action as is possible to apprehend the culprits. Prevention of thefts is essentially a law and order problem and the attention of the State Governments concerned has been drawn repeatedly to this and they have been urged to take vigorous action.

मोकामा का रेल क्व मूल

*१०३५. पंडित एस० सी० मिश्र :
क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि मोकामा के स्थान पर गंगा नदी पर रेल का पुल बनाने के निमित्त अस्थायी कर्मचारियों के लिये कलकत्ता तथा अन्य स्थानों पर नये प्रार्थना पत्र मांगे गये हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): No.

साहबगंज-मुंगेर घाट स्टीमर सविस्

* १०३६. पंडित एस० सी० मिश्र :
क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत वर्ष मुंगेर नगर तथा जिले के लोगों की ओर से सरकार के पास एक अभ्यावेदन आया था कि साहबगंज और मुंगेर के बीच की स्टीमर सविस् संगठित रूप से चलाई जाये; तथा

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

GANGA-BRAHMAPUTRA WATER TRANSPORT BOARD

*1037. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the present composition of the Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Transport Board and when was it established?

(b) What progress has so far been made by this Board?

(c) What is its present programme?

(d) What expenditure has been incurred on it up-to-date since its inception?