

INDO-PAKISTAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE

*1393. { Shri Muniswamy:
Shri G. P. Sinha:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Sanganna:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

(a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indo-Pakistan Railway Conference was held recently at Karachi?

(b) If so, was any settlement reached at the Conference?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes; the undernoted meetings were held at Karachi in November, 1953:—

(i) Stores Sub-Committee (Railways) to determine division of outstanding items of rolling stock (16th-18th November, 53).

(ii) Railway Standing Committee to decide current matters pertaining to interchange of traffic and stock with Pakistan (19th November, 53).

(iii) A conference to consider resumption of passenger traffic between India and West Pakistan. (19th November, 53).

(b) No settlement was reached in regard to resumption of passenger traffic between India and West Pakistan, but decisions were taken in regard to the division and exchange of outstanding items of rolling stock, stores and other matters pertaining to contractual and staff claims. The minutes are awaiting ratification by both the governments.

DISPLACED T. B. PATIENTS

*1394. **Shri Bhagat Jha:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the Ministry of Rehabilitation has placed any amount at the disposal of the Health Ministry for the treatment of displaced indigent T.B. patients during 1953-54?

(b) What is the total amount so far sanctioned to the Health Ministry for such purposes?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The total amount allotted by the Ministry of Rehabilitation to the Ministry of Health for the purpose since 1949-50 is Rs. 17,46,000/-.

SOUTH BIHAR SUGAR WORKS, BIHTA

*1395. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to permit the South Bihar Sugar Mills Ltd., Bihta to be shifted to Bombay State;

(b) If so, whether Bihar Government was consulted in the matter; and

(c) the reasons why it has been decided to shift the factory?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The working of the factory at its present site (Bihta) is uneconomic due to paucity of cane in the factory area. At its new site it has good prospects of working to its full capacity.

RAILWAY SKILLED STAFF

*1396. **Shri M. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the recommendations of the Joint Advisory Committee in respect of higher skilled and master craftsmen?

(b) Have these recommendations been implemented specially in the Railway workshop at Gorakhpore?

(c) If the answer to the part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The recommendation was that there should be two grades of highly skilled workers—highly skilled grade I at Rs. 125—185 and highly skilled grade II at Rs. 80-160. The Master Craftsmen will be highly skilled grade I.