

Shri Sanganna: May I know the probable time when the decision of the Government will be out?

Shri Kidwai: It is difficult to say because so many interests have to be consulted.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the Committee has given any idea of the amount that may be required for the implementation of the recommendations?

Shri Kidwai: That will be known when the Committee's recommendations are published.

HASSAN-MANGALORE RAILWAY LINE

*1081. **Shri Siddananjappa:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the progress so far achieved in the preliminary Survey Works undertaken in regard to the Hassan-Mangalore railway line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Field work of the Traffic Survey is practically over.

90 per cent. work on the Preliminary Engineering Survey in the Plateau Section between Hassan and Sakleshpur has been completed. The photographs of the aerial survey have just been received for further examination. 80 per cent. of the Reconnaissance work on the Mangalore-Sakleshpur section has been done.

Shri Siddananjappa: May I know, Sir, if final location survey is also included in the present work?

Shri Alagesan: That will come later, Sir.

Shri Siddananjappa: May I know if there is any general scheme for the future railway development of this area and, if so whether this present proposal forms part of it?

Shri Alagesan: We are considering the advisability of extending the scope of the traffic survey covering the entire

Malnad area and the General Manager of the railway concerned has been advised accordingly.

Shri Basappa: May I know whether the opening of this railway line is intimately connected with the development of backward areas of Malnad and whether it is also true that the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri Kidwai inaugurating the Malnad Conference a few months back has assured that the development of the Malnad area will be the first duty of the Government?

Shri Alagesan: The construction of the line will go a great way in the development of the Malnad area.

AIR SERVICES

*1082. **Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the standard of the Air Services in the matter of cleanliness, food and other passengers' comforts has considerably deteriorated since the nationalization of the Air Lines; and

(b) if so, the steps that Government propose to take to restore the pre-nationalization standards in these services?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir. I might however add that with the prospect of nationalisation, several of the air companies prior to the 1st August, 1953, did not consider it worthwhile incurring expenses on timely replacement of furnishings etc. in aircraft.

(b) The Corporation has been renewing the furnishings and has also placed orders for new cabin equipment providing for better comfort to the passengers.

Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah: Does the Government propose to have any responsible officer to check up by periodical surprise visits the conditions of the aircraft or the services rendered to the passengers thereof?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have been heir to certain unavoidable conditions which have come down to us from the companies. They did not undertake repairs or replacement of furnishings etc. for a long time because of the impending nationalisation. We are going to replace them gradually; we cannot do that all at once.

Shrimati Kamleśu Mati Shah: Is it proposed that a book of suggestions is to be maintained and that suggestions from the travelling public should be carefully looked into?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They are being looked into very respectfully.

Shri Karni Singhji rose—

Mr. Speaker: What does he want to ask?

Shri Karni Singhji: I wanted to put the very same question.

RAILWAY BRIDGES IN ASSAM

*1083. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during floods in Assam, there is not enough drainage channel left under the Railway bridges and culverts for water to flow out;

(b) whether this is one of the causes of the numerous breaches on the Railways and trunk roads; and

(c) the steps, if any, that are proposed to be taken to remove this drawback?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) This may have become so in some cases as, due to deforestation and consequent heavy soil erosion, the beds of many rivers have risen, reducing the waterway through bridges and increasing the high flood levels generally.

(b) It may be a contributory cause but further detailed examination is necessary.

(c) A joint investigation by the North Eastern Railway and the West Bengal Irrigation Department with the assistance of the Hydraulic Research Station is being arranged.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether there was any survey conducted before these lines were laid in this part of the country?

Shri Alagesan: Is he referring to the Assam link or what?

Shri K. P. Tripathi: The Assam link plus the entire area which is Assam.

Shri Alagesan: There was a previous question also. Generally surveys are conducted before the construction of any line. But, the House is well aware of the circumstances under which the Assam railway link had to be constructed. Even so, my information is that no damage has occurred to any major bridge on the newly constructed Assam link. Damage occurred to three important bridges on the old portion of the Assam main line.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether there are figures to show that during the last five years how many times there have been breaches in this line and for what periods there have been obstruction to traffic?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, it is an unfortunate fact in that region. But the whole question is being tackled by the Centre as well as at State level. In the previous years also there have been breaches and hold-up of traffic for a considerable time. This year also the major breaches can be closed only by the end of October.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it is proposed to set up a Committee of Enquiry in order to find out whether the number of culverts are sufficient for the purposes of draining water in this area?

Shri Alagesan: In answer to part (c) of the question, we have already said that a joint investigation by the North Eastern Railway and the West Bengal Government is intended.