

the passengers to cross over from the Metre gauge to the Broad gauge and vice-versa;

(b) whether it is a fact that this passage is blocked;

(c) if so, why it is so;

(d) whether there is any other passage for the passengers to cross over the railway lines from one platform to the other; and

(e) whether Government are aware of the fact that the passengers are put to a great inconvenience due to the blockade of the bridge passage and there is a danger for the life of the passengers?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):

(a) Yes.

(b) It is not a fact that the passage from the broad gauge platform to the metre gauge platform via the foot overbridge has been blocked.

(c) The foot overbridge is meant primarily for connecting the two platforms, but in addition there are gates leading from each of the platforms at the foot of the bridge on either side, to the main roads outside. These gates are kept closed to prevent passengers from going out without their tickets being checked or outsiders from entering the railway premises through the foot overbridge which is meant exclusively for the use of *bona fide* passengers going from one platform to the other.

(d) As the foot overbridge remains open for passengers crossing from one platform to the other, no other passage is required by them.

(e) Does not arise.

T. B. CLINICS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

322. Shri Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has decided to build two T.B. Clinics for providing medical treatment to the Railway employees suffering from T.B.;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the number of beds each hospital will have;

(c) where they will be located;

(d) the estimated expenditure for the construction of the buildings to house the clinics; and

(e) whether the families of the patients will be provided with housing accommodation near the clinic?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):

(a) Yes. Government have decided to build T. B. Sanatoria for providing medical treatment to the Railway employees suffering from T. B. The present intention is to provide a total of 300 beds.

(b) to (e). These are at present under examination.

MADURA-BODINAICKANOOR RAILWAY LINE

323. Shri Kandasamy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state when the work of restoring the Madura-Bodinaickanoor Railway line, which was dismantled during War II, will commence?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The work on the restoration of Madura-Bodinayakkanur Railway line will commence during the current financial year.