

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The accounts of the Indian Airlines Corporation for the year 1954-55 are not yet ready. I, however, lay a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha giving the estimated revenue and losses of the Corporation during the year 1954-55. [See Appendix XI, annexure No. 29.]

Shri Joachim Alva: The Government have announced that Skymasters will fly for the night air mail. Do Government realise that Skymasters will cost about anything between Rs. 1200 to Rs. 1400 per hour flying, while the cost of Dakotas is only Rs. 600? How do Government propose to make up the loss?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In anticipation of increase in traffic and mails in due course, it will be economical.

ASSAM LINK

*2404. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for the preliminary Engineering survey of the Ramsahai-Binnaguri railway line on the North Eastern Railway; and

(b) when the survey will be completed?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Rs. 60,000/-

(b) The survey is expected to be completed by May, 1955.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether this alignment is going to be accepted finally by the Government?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: That is the very object with which the engineering survey is being carried out. As soon as the survey is completed, we will be able to say whether we will definitely accept this alignment or not.

Shri Barman: May I know whether the hon. Minister has received a copy of a resolution of a meeting which was held by officials and non-officials on the 5th April, 1955 strongly opposing and disapproving this alignment, and if so, what is the reaction of the Ministry?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): It is too early to say anything about this particular alignment till the whole thing is completed.

Shri Barman: It is of the opinion that this alignment would not serve any purpose.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister's point was that this question cannot be answered at this stage.

ACCIDENTS IN INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS

*2406. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government propose to prepare any plan for reducing the number of industrial accidents in the country?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Comprehensive safety provisions exist in the Indian Mines Act, 1952 and Regulations thereunder and also in the Factories Act, 1948. Revision of the Regulations and strengthening of Inspectorates are under consideration. A museum of safety, health and welfare as part of Central Labour Institute is also being set up in Bombay.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In view of the fact that industrial and mining accidents are increasing rapidly, may I know whether Government do propose to further tighten up the safety regulations?

Shri Abid Ali: We propose to tighten up the regulations, but the hon. Member is not correctly informed that these accidents are increasing. Of course we had a mining accident last year; but otherwise we have had a very good year in 1954.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know by what percentage the mining and industrial accidents have gone down?

Shri Abid Ali: In mines, in 1951 the number of fatal accidents was 0.77 per thousand persons employed. In 1952 it was 0.80 and in 1953 it was 0.65. Similarly in factories also, it was 0.10 in 1949, 0.10 in 1950 and 0.09 in 1951.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister has stated that the regulations under the Indian Mines Act, 1952 will be finalised. We have been expecting the finalisation of these rules for the last three years. Can we get at least an approximate idea of the date by which these rules will be finalised?

Shri Abid Ali: It will be done very soon.

Shri Joachim Alva: Do Government propose to send inspectors of mines for learning up-to-date methods of safety devices abroad?

Shri Abid Ali: The training given to our inspectors here is sufficiently up-to-date.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

*2413. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the earnings of the Eastern Railway during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54; and

(b) the amount spent on the restoration of the old lines and on the construction of new lines in this Zone during the above period?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix, XI, annexure No. 30].

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The statement laid does not answer part (b) of my question about the amount

spent on the restoration of old lines and on the construction of new lines.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I very respectfully beg to differ from hon. Member. It is stated quite clearly. The amount spent on the restoration of old lines in 1952-53 is Rs. 7 lakhs and in 1953-54, Rs. 30 lakhs. For the construction of new lines, the figures are Rs. 6 lakhs in 1952-53 and Rs. 26 lakhs in 1953-54.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: It refers to the lines and not to the amount. May I know whether there are still old lines which are under the consideration of the Government to be restored in the current year?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): There may be some old lines. I cannot say definitely about this at present. But in the current year, we do not propose to restore any line in Bihar.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether there is any proposal for the current year to construct new lines in Bihar and in the backward areas of Santal Parganas.

Shri L. B. Shastri: Some proposals have been received by the Government and they will be considered at the appropriate time.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: The Railway Minister has said that there is no proposal to construct any new line in Bihar. May I know why there is so much enmity against Bihar?

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know whether the Bhagalpur-Mandanhill extension up to Deoghar promised by the Railway Minister has been dropped?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I never made any such promise. I am, however, prepared to consider it, as I said, at the appropriate time when we consider the construction of new lines in connection with the Second Five Year Plan.