

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ASSAM RAIL LINK

*1660. { **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:**
Shri K. P. Tripathi:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation dated the 27th December, 1954, from the Indian Tea Planters' Association, Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) in regard to the construction of a chord line between Assam and the rest of India to connect the Brahmaputra and the Ganga Rivers in order to avoid travel by rail through the East Pakistan territory;

(b) whether Government have considered the proposals contained in the representation referred to in (a) above;

(c) if so, whether they propose to include this line in the Second Five Year Plan; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

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

(c) and (d). A survey for a line between Ramshai and Binnaguri has been sanctioned. A decision will be taken after the report on this survey is received.

POSTAL EMPLOYEES OF SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT

*1661. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Postal employees stationed in the Cantonment area of Secunderabad refused to draw their salary on the 3rd January, 1955 as a protest against the withdrawal of the House-rent and City Compensatory Allowances; and

(b) the action taken on the representation made by the National Federation of Postal and Telegraph employees in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 106 class III and 27 class IV employees working in certain suburban localities of Hyderabad (Dn.) did not draw their pay on the 3rd January 1955, the first working day of the month, but drew it subsequently on the 4th January 1955.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

SOIL EROSION

*1662. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memoranda from the Government of Punjab containing proposals for protection against soil erosion

(b) if so, what are their main suggestions; and

(c) the financial commitment of the Central Government in this connection and the share to be borne by the State Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). A proposal to establish demonstration centres for arresting water and wind erosions at Hoshiarpur and Hissar was made by the Government of Punjab and a subsidy of Rs. 16,000/- was granted in 1954-55 and proposal for making a suitable grant for 1955-56 is under consideration.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS ENQUIRY REVIEW COMMITTEE

*1663. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any additional financial liability has fallen on the Railway Administration as a result of the implementation of the various recommendations of the Railway Accidents Enquiry Review Committee?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shaheenawaz Khan): The Railway Board's directive to the Railways for implementing the accepted recommendations having issued recently, it is yet too early to assess the actual extent of the financial liability involved.