

at New Delhi at the end of January, 1956 had talks with the Government of India to help the country in setting up big sugar factories by supplying heavy machinery and technical personnel from Japan; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### SETHUSAMUDRAM PROJECT

**\*1487. Shri Siddananjappa:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 181 on the 22nd February, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee, constituted by the Government of India to explore the possibility of Sethusamudram Project of connecting the Gulf of Mannar with the Palk strait, has submitted any report;

(b) if so, the chief features thereof; and

(c) if not, the progress made by the Committee so far in the matter?

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

(b) The Committee has reported that the establishment of a new navigation route by cutting a ship canal across the mainland a few miles to the West Pamban bridge as an alternative to the existing longer route and the simultaneous development of Tuticorin into a 26 feet deep harbour is feasible. The Committee's estimate of the cost of the project is approximately Rs. 10 crores.

(c) Does not arise.

#### SUSPENSION OF PASSENGER SERVICES ALONG DIMAPUR-MANIPUR ROAD

**\*1491. Shri L. Jogeswar Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger and mail services by buses along

the Dimapur-Manipur Road have been suspended;

(b) how long the services will be suspended and when they will be resumed;

(c) the alternative arrangement for transport of passenger and mail services; and

(d) the latest situation in that area?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) to (d). Passenger and mail services by buses on this route were suspended only on the 23rd March, 1956. The services were resumed partially on the 24th March, 1956 and in full from the 25th March, 1956.

#### GORAKHPUR RAILWAY STAFF

**\*1492. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a cut of five days' wages of Gorakhpur Railway Staff during the strike period of April, 1952;

(b) whether during his recent visit to Gorakhpur he assured the staff representatives and the staff to sympathetically consider their case for restoration of the cut in wages; and

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The cut in wages varied from half a day to five days.

(b) Presumably, the reference is to the visit paid by the Railway Minister to Gorakhpur in the month of October 1955. He said then that he would consider the matter.

(c) No.

#### RAILWAY TRAINING SCHOOL

**\*1493. Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of the