

BREACHES IN ASSAM RAIL LINK

***2340. Shri Debendra Nath Sarma :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assam Link line of the North-Eastern Railway remains breached during the monsoons;

(b) if so, the duration of such breaches in 1952, 1953, 1954 and 1955 ;

(c) the total loss to Railways due to breaches ; and

(d) the measures contemplated for making the link line free from such breaches in future ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, not always.

(b) 54 days in 1952 ; none in 1953; 122 days in 1954; and 65 days in 1955.

(c) Rs. 2 crores approximately.

(d) A committee has been set up to examine the general question of stabilisation of the link route and to suggest remedial measures.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma: May I know how long it will take to get the report of that committee ?

Shri Alagesan : I shall not be able to say. We have asked them to examine it quickly. There are one or two surveys also that have to be carried out, and those surveys will be taken into account by this committee. So, it may take some time, I am not able to say.

Shri G. P. Sinha : May I know if the committee will also examine the breach caused in North Bihar during the monsoon ?

Mr. Speaker : This relates to Assam.

Shri Alagesan : This is with reference to the Assam Rail Link.

Shri Barman : May I know whether this committee, in addition to finding out ways of strengthening the link, will also enquire about the alternative route suggested by the Government of Assam ?

Shri Alagesan : They will take that also into consideration.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : May I know whether there was stoppage of communications recently in that line ?

Shri Alagesan : Maybe, due to flood there might have been some dislocation.

FAMILY PLANNING

***2341. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been prepared by Government to propagate family planning in the rural areas ;

(b) if so, the nature of the proposal; and

(c) the medium to be used for propagating it ?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The details of the Scheme are under consideration.

Shrimati A. Kale : May I know whether Government will consider the utility of training some workers and sending them to villages for family planning work ?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar : It is also included in the Second Five Year Plan because we need trained personnel to run the centres to be opened under the Second Five Year Plan.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh : In reply to parts (b) and (c) of the question the Minister said that the details are under consideration. May I know whether they will be considered on the return of the Minister of Health from U.S.A. or before ?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar : Yes, Sir. Shortly it will be completed.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee : May I know if it is the experience of Government that in the absence of an increase in the standard of living, propaganda for family planning in the rural areas becomes rather futile, and if so, what Government propose to do about it?