

Rolling Stock

*1380. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the programme for self-sufficiency in their requirements of Rolling Stock by the end of the Second Five Year Plan ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 21].

Sonepore Bridge

*1381. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Central Government are contemplating conversion of the present Sonepore railway bridge into road bridge after completion of the new Sonepore railway bridge?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The Government of Bihar have under consideration a proposal for taking over the present Railway Bridge for use as a road bridge after completion of the new Railway Bridge between Sonepore-Hajipur.

Wharfage Rates

*1382. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the rates of wharfage have been enhanced at some of the stations of North-Eastern Railway falling in North Bihar specially at Darbhanga and Laheria Sarai stations and the free time limit has been reduced from forty-eight hours to twenty-four hours for taking delivery of goods there;

(b) if so, the circumstances in which this has been done;

(c) whether any representation showing unnecessary inconvenience caused to the public has been received by the Railway authorities; and

(d) if so, the nature of action taken on it?

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

(b) To eliminate the congestion at the goods sheds, parcels and luggage offices, resulting from slow removal of goods by merchants.

(c) Yes.

(d) The representation has been replied to by North-Eastern Railway, explaining the reasons for the changes.

Hill Allowance

*1383. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hill allowance is denied to guards and other railway employees working in Nilgiris;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that those few employees who have been getting hill allowance are being transferred to other places and the new employees posted there are not sanctioned the allowance?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Hill allowance is not paid to guards and other staff posted to the Nilgiri Mountain Railway section from 1-3-50 as House Rent and Compensatory allowances are payable from that date.

(c) No; transfer of employees is ordered in the exigencies of the service. The staff are paid the allowances as due at present.

Farmers' Bank

*1384. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the position with regard to the proposal to set up a Farmers' bank in the country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The proposal has been dropped.

International Civil Aviation Organisation

*1385. { **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the main problems discussed at the recent session of International Civil Aviation Organisation held at Caracas, Venezuela?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I lay on the Table of the Lok Sabha a Statement giving the requisite information [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 22]

Shipping Facilities to Pakistan

*1386. { **Sri Gidwen**
Shri M. Islamuddin:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh
Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:

Will the Minister of Transport be

(a) whether the Government of India had offered to afford Port and Shipping