

posals for the further expansion of shipping tonnage so far formulated by the Shipping Corporation of India envisage the acquisition of 16 overseas ships, 3 coastal colliers and 2 overseas tankers, aggregating to about 2,23,000 GRT.

Collision of Trains near Kanpur

84. } **Shri P. C. Borooah;**
 } **Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 108 down passenger train bound for Lucknow ran into an empty stationary train at Ajoin Railway Station near Kanpur;

(b) if so, the number of casualties suffered and other loss involved in the accident; and

(c) the cause of the accident?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c). On 21-9-1963 at about 22.50 hrs. while train No. 108 Up Lucknow-Jhansi Passenger was starting from line No. 1 at Ajoin station, it entered the siding due to incorrect setting of points and collided with an empty rake stabled there.

As a result, 9 persons sustained minor injuries. Cost of damage to railway property was estimated at Rs. 6,430.

N.E.F. Railway

85. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Railway authorities has been drawn to the unsatisfactory catering service provided by the refreshment rooms at various stations on the North-East Frontier Railway and the absence of tea-stalls at other stations on the same Railway;

(b) if so, the action being taken to improve the conditions; and

(c) the names of stations in Assam where catering arrangements do not exist?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A few complaints regarding catering arrangements at certain stations on North-East Frontier Railway were received and necessary remedial action in respect of such of them as have been substantiated on completion of enquiries, has been taken.

Tea stalls have been or are being provided at stations where need existed or has developed from the point of view of travelling public.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-1835/63*].

Rail Link between Siliguri and Jogighopa

86. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the work of laying of an alternate rail-link between Siliguri and Jogighopa on N.F. Railway; and

(b) when it is likely to be completed?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). Preliminary Engineering and Final Location Surveys for the new broad gauge line from Siliguri to Jogighopa have been completed. A good proportion of tenders for work were received and settled by end of September 1963 and construction work has commenced from the beginning of this working season—October, 1963. Every effort is being made to adhere to a time schedule of two working seasons for completion of this line.