

(b) the progress achieved in developing our tramp fleet as a long-term measure to protect India's export interests?

**The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Agreement of the Conference has been obtained in principle to special treatment being accorded to sensitive commodities and the matter is being pursued in consultation with the trade interests.

(b) The question of developing tramp tonnage is receiving the constant attention of Government. During the current plan period 20 tramp vessels, including bulk carriers, aggregating 2,90,534 G.R.T. have been acquired/ordered for operation in the tramp trade.

#### **Katihar Railway Station**

25. { **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**

will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 5,000 people who were stranded at the Katihar Railway Station on the N.E.F. Railway squatted on the railway track for hours together on the 19th December, 1963 to protest against the lack of accommodation in the trains;

(b) whether numerous representations had already been received from various organisations in Assam about the low frequency of services and lack of accommodation in the trains on the N.E.F. Railway; and

(c) the steps since taken to improve the conditions on that Railway?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shah Nawas Khan):** (a) On 19th December, 1963, No. 21 Up Katihar-Gauhati Passenger

was held up at Katihar station for 25 minutes as some passengers who having failed to get accommodation in the train stood on the track. No other train was detained at Katihar on that day.

(b) There have been representations complaining about inadequacy of train services on N.F. Railway.

(c) Steps taken so far to relieve overcrowding on main line trains running on N.F. Railway include an additional pair of trains on Katihar-Siliguri section from 1-10-63 and augmentation of loads of the following train services:

- (i) 61 Up/62 Dn. Gauhati-Tinsukia Passenger by three third class coaches;
- (ii) 3 Up/4 Dn. Assam Mains by a composite first and third class bogie between Gauhati and Maniharihat.
- (iii) 5 Up/6 Dn. North Bank Expresses by three third class coaches.
- (iv) 1 Up/2 Dn. A.T. Mails by two third class coaches; and
- (v) 69 Up/70 Dn. Mariani-Tinsukia Passengers by three third class coaches.

It is also proposed to provide from April 1964:

- (i) a pair of passenger trains between Lumding and Tinsukia to be run during day light hours in lieu of 63 Up/64 Dn passengers which had been cancelled from 13-4-1963 consequent upon suspension of night running of trains on Lumding-Mariani section.
- (ii) a pair of mails and two pairs of passenger trains on the Khejuriaghat-Barosi-New Jalpaiguri B. G. section.