

(b) if so, the steps being taken to avoid inconvenience to the considerably heavy motor traffic at the spot?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahmawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The level crossing gates are normally kept open to road traffic except when trains have to be received at or despatched from Itarsi station. Instructions are in force that the gates should be closed for the minimum possible time and in any case for not more than fifteen minutes at a time. It is understood that the Government of Madhya Pradesh have under consideration a proposal to construct a road over-bridge at the site.

Central Co-operative Bank

2289. Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of average area of operation and population served by a central co-operative bank in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar;

(b) what should be the sizeable area of operation and population to ensure optimum efficiency of a central co-operative Bank; and

(c) the special efforts being made to bring about maximum uniformity with respect to the area of operation and population of each bank by developing and improving the working conditions of weak banks?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy):

(a) The statement giving the information about the number of districts and number of Central co-operative Banks functioning in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, U.P., West Bengal and Bihar as on 30th June, 1962, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2751[64].

(b) No hard and fast rules are prescribed. The general policy aimed at is to have one Central Cooperative Bank for each district.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has a programme for the rationalization of the Co-operative banking structure with a view to ensuring *inter-alia* operational efficiency and economic viability of weak units. Special efforts are being made to secure voluntary amalgamation of weak units by persuasion and discussion with the parties concerned.

Train Collision near Tatanagar

2290. { Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
Shri Vishwanath Pandey:
Shri Rajdeo Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 84 Down Ranchi-Howrah Express collided with a light engine at Gomharria, 11 Kilometres from Tatanagar on the 3rd April, 1964; and

(b) if so, the details of the accident and the number of casualties?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). At about 22.25 hours on 2nd April, 1964, while No. 84 Down Ranchi-Howrah Express was entering Gomharria junction, it collided with the rear of a light engine which was coming from Chakradharpur on way to Tatanagar and had just entered Gomharria station. As a result of the impact, 22 persons sustained minor injuries.

Over-Bridges in Olavakkot Division

2291. { Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Pottekkatt:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of over-bridges proposed to be constructed in the Alavakkot Division of the Southern Railway during 1964-65; and