

distance for charge since construction of the bridge was not financially justified without inflation. The inflation has been fixed so that the traffic pays no more than before the construction of the costly bridge.

Since the inflation has been deliberately fixed, the question of rectifying it does not arise.

Export of Rum

88. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian rum is quite popular in Europe; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to explore markets abroad for exports?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pilferage Cases

89. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilferage cases and loss of railway equipment from coaches during the year 1964 till the end of January, 1965 on all the Indian Railways;

(b) the amount of losses involved during the above period; and

(c) the losses on this account during the years 1962 and 1963?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) 27,131 in 1964; 1,910 in January, 1965.

(b) Rs. 16,74,613 in 1964; Rs. 1,09,433 in January, 1965.

(c) 1962—Rs. 10,24,448, 1963—Rs. 15,03,862.

Karjat-Khopoli Line

90. Shri Dighe: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Karjat—Khopoli Railway line

is the only part of the Bombay-Poona Railway line which remains to be electrified;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a demand from the public for the electrification of this line; and

(c) when Government propose to undertake the electrification of this line?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Sham Nath): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) There is no proposal to electrify Karjat-Khopoli section at present as the traffic can be easily dealt with by steam traction.

Divisional Superintendent Office, Northern Railway

91. { **Shri Buta Singh:**
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Gulshan:
Shri P. H. Bheel:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Police Establishment raided the office of the Divisional Superintendent, Northern Railway, New Delhi in December, 1964 and January, 1965 and caught red-handed some members of staff of the Commercial Branch; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes, Sir. The special Police Establishment raided the Divisional Superintendent's office on 18-1-1965 and apprehended an employee of the Commercial Branch while accepting Rs. 300 as illegal gratification from a partner of a firm who had tendered for a cycle stand contract.

(b) The employee was arrested by the police and later released on bail