

Serampore Railway crossing near Serampore Railway Station;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) Yes.

(b) Works of construction of road over/under-bridges in replacement of existing level crossings are jointly financed and executed by the Railways and the State Government/Road Authority and the proposals therefor have to be sponsored by the latter together with an undertaking to bear their share of the cost as per extant rules. A proposal for construction of a road over-bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 5 at Serampore Railway Station of Eastern Railway is presently under examination of the Railway in consultation with the Government of West Bengal.

(c) Does not arise.

Disposal of cases detected under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act

1967. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether the orders of the Minister for Health were obtained before disposing of cases of serious adulteration detected under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 during the last three years;

(b) whether some cases were also referred to the CBI for investigation; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the persons found guilty in these cases and the suggestions, if any, received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No. There is no such provision under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

(b) Yes.

(c) The report of the CBI is being examined.

Formation of Central Food Squad

1968. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government created a Central Food Squad in his Ministry to check the menace of adulteration in food articles through sanction authenticated as per rule;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the sanction provided for the functions to be performed by the Food Squad and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this squad is performing all these functions since its inception till-date particularly during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) Yes. The following is the strength of the squad:

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| 1 Senior Food Inspector | 1 |
| 2 Food Inspectors | 82 |
| 3 Field Assistant | 6 |

Senior Food Inspector and Food Inspectors were appointed under section 9 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and they are empowered to lift samples under the said Act. Food Inspectors can lift the samples under the Act on the basis of signed slips issued by the local (Health) Authority which are required to be fixed around the sample bottles.

(c) The Central Food Squad's activities in respect of the lifting of samples were confined in the initial period primarily to Delhi. This was because of the constraint under which the Delhi Municipal Corporation functioned in respect of work under the P.F.A. Act. However, as per recommendation of the Central Council of Health in 1976, the Delhi