

severe drought conditions necessitating a larger number of wagons having to be spared for foodgrains, heavy power cuts adversely affecting operation of yards and coal Pilots, maintenance of locomotives and rolling stock. The rate of loading is expected to improve with the anticipated improvement in power supply situation.

#### **Development of Transport facilities in North Eastern Region**

2856. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH  
CHAUDHARY:

SHRI BHIKURAM JAIN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have formulated a ten year plan for developing transport facilities in North Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof with particular reference to millage and the region to be covered and the outlay sanctioned; and

(c) when will it come into force?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) to (c). No specific Plan as such has yet been drawn up. There have however been some discussions on the subject by the Committee of Ministers set up by the Government of India for the Economic Development of North Eastern Region. The matter has yet to be considered by the Committee further.

#### **Passenger Halts in Dhenkanal District**

2857. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for having passenger halts;

(b) the number of passenger halts in Dhenkanal District, Orissa between

Rajnathgarh and Talcher in South Eastern Railway; and

(c) the number of proposals pending with Government for providing passenger halts and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) A passenger halt is normally opened when the distance between two adjoining stations is substantial there is sufficient passenger traffic and the opening of a passenger halt is financially justified. A halt station is also opened on passenger amenity grounds, even if there is a marginal recurring loss, provided the area is economically backward and there are no other suitable modes of transport. Further, opening of the passenger halt has to be feasible operationally and also from engineering point of view.

(b) Five.

(c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

#### **Provision of culverts in Orissa**

2858. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for providing culverts in Railways allowing rain water for irrigation purposes;

(b) whether any proposals for culverts are outstanding in Orissa;

(c) the number and details of such proposals outstanding with Rajpeetgarh-Talcher Section of South Eastern Railway; and

(d) the proposed dates of commencement and completion of these works?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Proposals for construction of culverts across Railway line for irrigation purpose are required to be sponsored by the State Irrigation Department/Local Authority together with an undertaking to bear