

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** No, as this steamer service, which is run by a private agency, is not a coordinated service running in conjunction with the Railway.

**ROAD LINK BETWEEN ASSAM AND NORTHERN INDIA**

**635. Pandit S. C. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contemplated construction of a road link between Assam and the rest of Northern India has been still kept pending or has been abandoned;

(b) whether road of some form or other exists as far as Karhagola in the District of Purnea which though not motorable can be used by a jeep;

(c) whether the link entirely disappears between Munghyer Ghat of Kadhagola;

(d) whether any surveys were undertaken in this section;

(e) if so, whether the map is ready in details;

(f) whether any military transport or convoy can reach Assam from Lucknow or Ranchi without using railway transportation;

(g) whether Government contemplate setting up some form of road communication on the charted line in the near future; and

(h) if not, when?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No. Improvement works on the road referred to are in progress,

(b) A motorable road exists along the permanent alignment of the National Highway from Assam to Karhagola (north of Ganga). There is also a motorable road connecting Kolgong Ghat (opposite Karhagola on the south of Ganga) with Dumri on National Highway No. 2 (Calcutta-Delhi road).

(c) Yes. This is a part of the missing link between Baruni (opposite Mokameh ghat) and Karhagola on the permanent alignment of the National Highway.

(d) Yes. The surveys are still in progress.

(e) Details of the alignment will be settled after the surveys are over.

(f) Yes.

(g) and (h). Yes. In fact Assam is being connected with the rest of India by two routes one of which is the one referred to by the Honourable Member and another goes from Calcutta to Silliguri via Behrampur, Dhulian and Rai-gunj. It is proposed that the missing link on the north of Ganga should be constructed so as to be ready simultaneously with the proposed Mokameh bridge over Ganga as without this bridge the road will not serve the purpose for which it is intended.

**RAILWAY STAFF QUARTERS AT BUDGE BUDGE STATION**

**636. Shri Waghmare:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of the Railway Staff Quarters of small units like L/77, T/76 and L/75 at Budge Budge Station on the Eastern Railway though started in the year 1949, has not been completed upto now with all the amenities like water taps, drains, electricity etc;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that such incomplete quarters have been allotted to the staff and rent is being deducted from their salary?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) and (b). The quarters in question were completed and handed over for occupation on the 29th November, 1951. The site of quarters being in a low-lying area, considerable ash-filling had to be done. A 2" tube well has been provided 100 ft. away from the quarters. The provision of water taps will be made when the materials indented for have

been received. In accordance with the policy then in force, these quarters were not electrified. The electrification of such quarters is provided on a programme basis depending on the availability of funds from year to year.

(c) As the quarters are according to the prescribed types, the realisation of rent is made according to the rules in force.

**TELEPHONE EXCHANGE ON MOHAMEDALI ROAD IN BOMBAY**

**637. Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government had decided to construct a new building for a new Telephone Exchange in Bombay on a plot of land on Mohamedali Road?

(b) Is it a fact that the squatters who were living on that plot were removed from there and the ground was cleared for the purpose last year?

(c) Is the ground being used at present by secondhand goods dealers and for keeping scrap metal as the construction of the building has not been taken up?

(d) When do Government propose to begin construction on the plot?

**The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The Bombay Municipality to which the plots belonged evicted the occupants before leasing out the same to P. and T. Department.

(c) Certain unauthorised persons have stored furniture and scrap material on the plots and action is being taken to clear the site.

(d) The building work will be taken up by about the end of 1954.

**SOUTHERN REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH**

**638. Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the important subjects on which discussions were held at the annual meeting of the Southern Regional Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at Hyderabad during the third week of August, 1953?

(b) Who are the Members of the Southern Regional Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

(c) What are the areas, if any, selected under the scheme for cross-breeding?

(d) Has the proposal to establish an artificial insemination station been finalised?

(e) If so, where will this station be established?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 12.]

(c) The areas recommended in general for initiating cross-breeding research on cattle are (i) the hilly areas and (ii) the plains in the heavy rainfall areas of the country.

(d) Not yet. The proposal has been approved by this Committee, but in accordance with the normal procedure it will have to be considered by the Advisory Board and the Governing Body of the Council before finalisation.

(e) The proposal at present is to locate the station at Bangalore.