

ALTERNATIVE RAILWAY LINE FOR ASSAM

948. Shri Amjad Ali: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether an alternative railway line from Alipur Duars to Siliguri via Falakata-Dhupguri, Maynaguri, Domohoni and Delacoba for maintaining uninterrupted communication between Assam and the rest of India has been suggested to the Union Government by the State Government of Assam in a note; and

(b) whether the same note has also suggested building of a wagon ferry at Sakragali-Manihari Ghat to eliminate delay and damage to goods across?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

T. B. DISEASE

949. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five lakh beds are needed for hospitals for Tuberculosis cases as stated by Dr. P. V. Benjimin, Adviser on Tuberculosis to the Government of India while addressing a meeting of Rotary Club on the 9th September, 1954;

(b) whether Government have appointed a Special Committee for suggesting measures to the Planning Commission for reducing the incidence of the T. B. disease in the country in the next five years; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the measures suggested in this regard?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) It has been estimated that about five lakh beds would be needed for tuberculosis patients.

(b) No; but the Standing Technical Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India have recommended certain anti-Tuberculosis Schemes

for implementation during the next Five Year Plan.

(c) The Committee have recommended the expansion and intensification of the following Schemes:--

- (i) B.C.G. Vaccination Programme;
- (ii) Establishment of T.B. Clinics and Domiciliary Service;
- (iii) Establishment of Teaching and Demonstration Centres;
- (iv) Provision of Isolation Hospitals and Treatment;
- (v) After-care and rehabilitation of ex-T.B. patients; and
- (vi) Research.

SUGAR FACTORIES

950. Shri H. S. Prasad: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have made any survey of sites in the country suitable either for establishing new sugar factories or for shifting old factories from other places to those sites?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Yes, as and when necessary. The Government have received a number of applications for the establishment of new sugar factories and for shifting of unsuitably-located factories to better sites and before granting necessary licenses, a survey of the area concerned is made by an Expert Committee appointed to examine such applications.

CHIKNA HALT

951. Shri L. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert 'Chikna Halt' between Ghoghardika and Tamuria Stations of North Eastern Railway into a flag station; and

(b) if so, by what time the conversion would take place?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A proposal whether it is necessary to convert this halt into a