

Progressive provision of mechanical devices to minimise failure of the human element, such as, interlocking the Block Instruments with Signals, replacing Paper Line Clear System of working especially on the Metre Gauge sections, by Token Working with Block Instruments, Lock and Block Instruments on double line sections, conversion of 'Free' Block Instruments into Lock and Block Instruments, and so on.

Frequent and intensive inspection of Permanent Way and rolling stock.

Grant of special priority for works required to enhance the safety element.

TREATMENT OF LEPROSY

288. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Karni Singhji:

Will the Minister, of Health be pleased to state the number of centres for the treatment of leprosy which are functioning in India at present?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrii Kaur): There are 129 colonies, homes, asylums and hospitals for the treatment of leprosy patients in addition to 644 clinics where facilities for out-door treatment of the disease exist.

ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES

289. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether tenders have been invited for the supply of Electric locomotives and coaches;

(b) the number of tenders received so far and the names of the parties from which they were received; and

(c) how many miles of Railway route will be electrified in the first instance in different zones?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) No offers have yet been received for the supply of electric locomotives and coaches for the Calcutta area. The last date for the receipt of offers for these items is 3rd January, 1955. 20 offers for the supply of electric coaches for the Bombay area have been received. As these offers are under confidential examination, it would not be in the public interest to disclose the details asked for at this stage.

(c) Approximately 88 route miles between Howrah and Burdwan via main line and Tarakeshwar Branch of the Howrah, Division on the Eastern Railway.

RAILWAY CLAIMS

290. Shri S. C. Singhal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the following information:—

(a) the number and amount of compensation settled by the Railway Administration in connection with the claims for damages and lost articles for the last three years;

(b) the number of claims with their values preferred during that period;

(c) the number of cases with their values filed in courts and the decisions of the courts thereon;

(d) the expenses incurred by Government on litigations;

(e) the establishment and other expenses of the Claims Section of the Railways for the last three years; and

(f) the procedure which the Department adopts on receiving the notices of claims?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (f). A statement showing the requisite information is attached. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 41.]

CHEQUE SYSTEM IN SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS

291. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply to starred