

TELEPHONE LINK BETWEEN MAHENGARH AND PLAZAGHAT

442. Thakar Jugal Kishore Sinha : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the action taken to link Dighaghat and Mahendragarh with Plazaghat by telephone?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) : The estimate for the work has been sanctioned. Stores are being arranged. The work is likely to be completed in about a month's time.

SLEEPING COACHES ON N. E. RAILWAY

443. Thakar Jugal Kishore Sinha : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce more III class sleeping coaches in N. E. Railway ; and

(b) if so, when and in what section?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) and (b). The implications of extending sleeping accommodation for third class passengers to more trains are under examination. Further programme of extension of this facility will be drawn up when this examination is completed. Also this question is linked up with the abolition of the existing second class and provision of additional coaches to reduce over-crowding.

TIME LIMIT FOR APPEALS

444. Shri R. K. Gupta : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time limit has been laid down on the Indian Railways for communication of decisions of the appellate authorities to the appellants on the appeals submitted by them ; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to issue some directions in that regard in order to mitigate hardship to the appellants?

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

(b) Instructions already exist for the expeditious disposal of appeals.

OVER-CROWDING IN TRAINS

445. Shri Dabhi : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1072 on the 21st December, 1955 and state :

(a) what steps Government have taken to remove over-crowding in 202 Down Delhi Mail and 204 Down Delhi Express trains ; and

(b) how far they have proved effective?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) and (b). 202 Down and 204 Down Delhi Mail and Express trains run on the Delhi-Ahmedabad section with the maximum number of coaches that can be hauled by the most powerful locomotive and no extra carriages can be attached to these trains. Other trains running on Delhi-Ahmedabad section have also been strengthened, but these measures have not proved adequate for completely eliminating over-crowding on the aforesaid trains. It is, however, proposed to run a Janata-cum-parcel train on this section from 1-4-1957 when additional coaches and locomotives are expected to become available.

CARRIAGE OF ANIMALS ON TRAINS

446. Sardar Hukam Singh : Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board have received representations from the public that the dumb clients (quadruped passengers) of Railways were at present suffering many hardships particularly during long distance journeys ; and

(b) if so, the action taken on such representations?

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