

Andal-Sainthia line

1265. DR. SARADISH ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government regarding the extension of the Andal-Suri-Sainthia line upto Karimpur via Kandi-Berhampur-Jalangi and the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): There is no proposal under consideration for the present for undertaking a survey for a new B. G. line linking Sainthia with Karimpur.

Probe into working of special employment exchanges

1266. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to probe into the working of special employment exchanges in the country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Working Group under the Chairmanship of Director General of Employment and Training, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Labour consisting of a representative each from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Finance, Health, Planning Commission and Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms has been constituted to probe into the working of Special Employment Exchanges for Physically Handicapped and suggest measures for improvement.

Digging of a canal in the Middle of Balari Bar

1267. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any expert opinion that a canal be dug in the middle of Balari bar from one end to another north and south; and

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the proposal and the results thereof?

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

(a) There is expert recommendation for dredging a cut across the Balari Bar after fixing its alignment by model tests.

(b) Model tests recommended by the experts are under way. Further necessary action will be taken in the matter after these tests are over and results have been evaluated.

Dacoities Committed in running Trains During 1979-80

1268. SHRI R. P. YADAV:
SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dacoities committed in the running trains during the year 1979-80 and the estimated loss of life on account of looting personnel belonging of the passengers;

(b) whether the culprits have been traced and punished accordingly; and

(c) the amount paid by way of compensation/*ex-gratia* payments to the victims/next kins?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) During the financial year 1979-80, 229 cases of dacoities and robberies were com-