

and (b). The first stage of Expansion Programme has been substantially completed. The implementation of the second stage Expansion Programme is under active consideration of the Government.

Electrification of Railway lines in Kerala & Tamilnadu

1463. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation for the electrification of railway lines in Kerala Tamilnadu ;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon ;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to electrify these lines in view of power availability in Kerala ; and

(d) whether Government of Kerala have offered electricity at low rates for electrification of these lines ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes .

(b) Trivellore-Arkonam, which is one of the sections, for which representations have been received, has been approved and electrification works are already in progress.

(c) and (d). The State Government of Kerala has not offered power at rates cheaper than the normal industrial tariff, which are applicable for high tension consumers. Due to traffic density on routes in Kerala being not sufficiently large at present, there are no proposals to take electrification of these routes so far.

Dredger Konarak

1464. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the sinking of the Dredger Konarak at Paradip Port in the current year ;

(b) if so, the circumstances under which the Dredger met such unusual accident ;

(c) the persons responsible for it ;

(d) the steps taken by Government to fix up the responsibility ; and

(e) the arrangements made for continuous dredging of the channel in the absence of Konarak Dredger ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTTA SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir, The Government is aware that 'Dredger Konarak' grounded at Paradip Port on 30th August, 1980.

(b) to (d). While dredging on 35 meters line South of centre line of entrance channel, the Dredger had an accident and went aground. An enquiry under Section 359 of the Merchant Shipping Act has been undertaken. The causes leading to the shipping casualty and the persons responsible therefor will be known after the report of preliminary enquiry is available.

(e) The Dredging Corporation of India has been requested to continuous maintenance dredging with the help of their dredger.

Forbesganj-Siliguri line

1465. SHRI D. L. BAITHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a big earthen bundh having a height of 800 ft. from Forbesganj to Siliguri on the Nepal Border of Purnea district of Bihar State ;

(b) whether it is fact that it passes through the area which is a heavy jute and paddy growing area of Bihar ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the above bundh although constructed about hundred years ago, still exists and is free from flood zone and any big river and there is no problem of transferring inhabitants or acquisition of land if a rail line is constructed linking Forbesganj Railway Station in Bihar with Siliguri Railway Station in West Bengal ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the proposed line would be a shorter route for N.E. region and would be of strategic importance as the existing lines connecting N.E. region are all circuitous full of bottlenecks and passes through flood-prone area and mostly remains disturbed ;

(e) whether Government propose to construct a new line as proposed above keeping in view the above facts ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (e). No

investigations have been carried out for the proposed direct rail link between Forbesganj and Siliguri in the past. Railways are, therefore, not aware about the earth-bund having a height of 800 ft from Forbesganj to Siliguri on the Nepal border of Purnea District of Bihar, as well as the terrain of the area. No request has been received from the Ministry of Defence for construction of the proposed link on strategic consideration. The proposed link between Forbesganj and Siliguri involves construction of a new MG rail line about 100 kms. long from Forbesganj to Thakurganj (as rail link between Thakurganj and Siliguri already exists) and would cost about Rs. 12 crores or so at the present day construction costs. Due to limited financial resources which are not adequate even to progress the schemes already in hand, it is not possible to undertake either survey or construction of this rail link at present.

Indian Embassy Complex at Islamabad

1466. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to build a Rs. 6 crores Indian Embassy complex in Islamabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will consist of:—1. A Chancery block including Consular offices.

(2) Residence of the Ambassador ; Residence for 13 Diplomatic officers and 65 Non-diplomatic officials including Class IB staff.

Coach Repair Factory at Palghat

1467. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Survey Report about setting up the coach repair factory at Palghat has been submitted to Government ;

(b) whether any final decision has been taken by Government in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) and (b), No.

(c) Does not arise.

पश्चिम रेलवे जोनल सलाहकार समिति

1468. श्री मोतीभाई आर० चौधरी :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पश्चिम रेलवे की जोनल सलाहकार समिति का इस बीच गठन कर लिया गया है और यदि हां, तो इसमें लोक सभा के सदस्यों की संख्या कितनी है ;

(ख) इस तथ्य के कारण कि पश्चिम रेलवे का अधिकांश हिस्सा गुजरात के अन्तर्गत आता है, इसमें गुजरात से लिये सदस्यों की संख्या कितनी है और इसमें विपक्ष के कितने सदस्य हैं ; और

(ग) यदि समिति में विपक्ष के सदस्यों को नहीं लिया गया है तो क्या सरकार इस समिति में विपक्ष के सदस्यों को लेने पर विचार करेगी ताकि उनकी सेवाओं का उपयोग किया जा सके ?