

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) No specific provision has been made by the Government of India for the free treatment of T.B. patients from the Scheduled Tribes in all States but *ad hoc* grants have been given

(b) In 1956-57, the following grants-in-aid were sanctioned by the Government of India:—

Government of West Bengal: Rs. 9,755

Government of Assam: Rs 87,532

Government of Ajmer Rs 3,000

Headquarters of Engineer-in-Chief, Eastern Railway

1161. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board had asked the Engineer-in-Chief of construction in the Eastern Railway to make Ranchi his headquarters in order to co-ordinate the construction of various projected lines in connection with the Rourkela Steel Works; and

(b) what steps have been taken up-to-date in order to implement this decision of the Railway Board?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No

(b) Does not arise

Road Bridge on National Highway No. 31

1162. Shri Barman: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the year when National Highway No 31 was breached within Jalpaiguri District by river Torsa;

(b) whether attempts have been made since then to construct a bridge over the river; and

(c) whether arrangements have been made for motor vehicle trans-

port during monsoons between eastern territories and the rest of India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) Two bridges across the Sil Torsa & Char Torsa were washed away in 1952 & 1954 respectively. These bridges were constructed during the last war by the army authorities and were of semi-permanent nature.

(b) The question of constructing permanent bridges over the Siltorsa and Chartorsa rivers is under consideration and certain investigations are being made in respect of the training works required for this extremely difficult river.

(c) During monsoon motor vehicle transport between eastern territories and the rest of India is possible by ferries along this route or an alternative route via Matabhanga according to the extent of flood in the Torsa river

Commemoration Stamp

1163. Shri R. Narayanasamy: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to print 13 (thirteen) Naya Paisa postage stamps bearing the picture of the late Subramanya Bharati, National poet of Tamilnad; and

(b) whether many requests have been received in this connection?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No, Sir

(b) Some requests have been received in recent years for bringing out stamps with the portraits of saints and poets

Trains on Nidadavolu-Narsapur Line

1164. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements were finalised to speed up the running of

*The grant-in-aid to the Government of Assam was for the treatment of T.B and Cancer patients