

(e) Rs. 421.85 lakhs out of which the amount of Rs. 34.01 lakhs is on account of Mandra Bhaun Railway which was purchased on 1-4-1947 and remained in West Pakistan as a result of Partition.

Bombay-Agra National Highway

716. Shri Jadhav: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to widen the Bombay-Agra National Highway; and

(b) if so, when the work is to begin?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) During the Second Five Year Plan period, depending on the availability of funds.

Electrification of Rayagada Station

717. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 536 on the 31st May, 1957 in respect of electrification of the Rayagada Railway Station and state whether the delay in the supply of electric power to the Station is due to any difference as regards the tariff price of the power between the Government of India and the Government of Orissa?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): A statement is laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 36.]

Telephones in Tripura

718. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for new telephone connections are waiting for disposal in Tripura at present;

(b) whether sanctioning of new telephone connections has been stopped throughout the Assam circle; and

(c) if so, when Government propose to renew it?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 90.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Foot-Board Travel on Trains

719. Shri Jadhav: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons injured by falling from the foot-boards of trains on different railways during the last ten years or as far as information is available; and

(b) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to prevent such accidents?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Records are not available for the full period of last 10 years; but the available information is given in the statement laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 37.]

(b) The steps taken by the Government are:

(1) Additional trains and carriages are run to the extent feasible to avoid overcrowding.

(2) Posters printed in different local languages, emphasising the dangers of foot-board travelling, are exhibited at stations.

(3) Passengers are also warned through the medium of loud-speakers installed at the important stations of the dangers involved in foot-board travelling.

(4) Station Masters and Guards and members of the Railway Protection Force and the Rail-

way. Police have instructions to dissuade and prevent passengers from travelling on foot-boards.

- (5) Prosecutions are also launched as a preventive measure.
- (6) The passenger stock used on suburban sections is designed so as not to have any foot-boards on which persons can travel.

Empty Wagon Specials

720. **Shri Doraiswami Gounder:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that empty wagon specials are taken in Southern Railway from one junction to another for meeting the balance without supplying the same to meet demands of the intermediate stations; and

(b) the reasons for taking such steps which cause loss to the Railway as well as inconvenience to the business community?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Empty wagons are moved in train loads for meeting demands of goods traffic in different areas of the Railway, or on other Railways; but goods traffic offering at intermediate stations on the route do not suffer on this account.

(b) Empty wagons are moved from areas where they are surplus to requirements areas where there are traffic demands and wagon availability less. Empty wagons are also moved to adjoining Railways when sufficient traffic is not offering to the Railway concerned in order to return an equal number of wagons to the adjoining railway.

Overcrowding in Railways

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

(a) the steps taken to reduce overcrowding on trains between Vijaya-

wada and Kakinada during 1956-57; and

(b) the results thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) (i) Nos. 46 and 45 Madras-Howrah Weekly vestibuled Janata Express trains were introduced on and from 1-7-56 with increased accommodation. (ii) Convenient connecting trains were provided between Samalkot and Cocanada Port (Kakinada) for Nos. 45 and 46 Madras-Bezawada (Vijayawada)—Howrah Janata Express.

(b) There has been a slight reduction in the extent of overcrowding on certain sections between Bezawada and Cocanada Port.

Deep-sea Fishing in Coastal Andhra

722. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to develop deep-sea fishing in the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the amount allotted for this purpose during 1957-58?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) It is proposed to establish a deep-sea fishing Unit at Visakhapatnam by using Vessels obtained under T.C.M. Aid. An Ice and Cold storage plant procured under T.C.M. Aid has been allotted to Andhra Pradesh and the State Government are erecting the Plant.

(b) The Scheme of deep-sea fishing operations including that for the Centre proposed for Visakhapatnam is under examination and the actual amount for that Unit will be known only when the scheme is finalised.

Riverine Fishing in Andhra

723. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount granted and technical assistance given for developing