

(d) what steps are being taken to provide better passenger amenities at Ayodhya Station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan): (a) The condition of waiting rooms and sheds at Ayodhya station is satisfactory.

(b) Three Upper class waiting rooms with a total floor area of 776 sq. ft. and a III class waiting hall measuring 1092 sq. ft. exist at Ayodhya Station.

(c) At Ayodhya only two important melas, viz., 'Ram Naumi' and 'Jhula' are held every year. Average number of passengers dealt with during the melas is 30,000 and 36,000 respectively. The duration of the melas is 7 and 15 days respectively.

(d) Three retiring rooms are under construction and it is also proposed to cover the entire platform with a shelter subject to the availability of funds and material.

It may be explained that the waiting facilities at stations are provided with reference to the maximum traffic dealt with at any one time *excluding Mela traffic*.

Telephone Lines in Darang District, Assam

2207. Shri Bhagavati: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to install telephone line from Tezpur to Sootea and Charali in the district of Darang, Assam and connecting it with Lakhimpur North; and

(b) if so, what is the reason for the delay in the execution of this proposal?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The proposal for erecting a trunk line from Tezpur to North Lakhimpur via Sootea and Charali had been examined but could not be sanctioned

due to heavy loss involved. A modified proposal of linking Tezpur with Charali via Rangpara and Sootea is under examination and will be sanctioned if found justified.

Development of Home Tourism

2208. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given to the different states for the development of Home Tourism during the first two years of the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount proposed to be given in the third year of the plan State-wise?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix VII, annexeure No. 26.]

Fodder

2209. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the success achieved in the experiments made for the improvement of fodder for cattle in the hill areas; and

(b) which of the grass has proved of better quality for purposes of nutrition in hills, where poor people cannot give other nutritious foods to the cattle?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The Ministry of Food and Agriculture has not carried out any experiments for the improvement of fodder for cattle in hilly areas specifically. However, considering the importance of increasing the feed and fodder resources of the country, this Ministry have drawn up a model scheme for the development of feed and fodder in areas covered by the key village blocks. Under this scheme grants for the de-