

work has been done and the balance is expected to be completed shortly. Other repairs as necessary from time to time are carried out.

(d) Yes, Sir.

#### Shortage of Technical Hands in Railways

**1331. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of Technical hands in Railways especially on North Eastern Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of this shortage technical hands are put in charge of non-Technical works; and

(c) the number of Technical hands employed in non-Technical jobs and vice-versa in North Eastern Railway?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) Generally Yes,

(b) Yes, to a limited extent.

(c) Three technical officers are appointed against general posts. A non-technical hand is not appointed against a technical post

#### Kuradhia Irrigation Project, Orissa

**1332. Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kuradhia irrigation project in Sundergarh sub-division in Orissa was financed by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the amount of money given by the Centre for completing the project; and

(c) whether the project has been completed?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 12,97,492.

(c) The project is expected to be completed before the end of this year

#### Passengers on the Bhatinda and Hindumal Kot Line

**1333. Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the average number of passengers on the Bhatinda and Hindumal Kot line from 1953 to 1957;

(b) the number of days in a month on which the passengers have to travel on foot-board due to overcrowding;

(c) the daily average number of passengers and whether the number of bogies attached to the trains is in proportion to traffic;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the number of bogies in the trains; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):** (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 142.]

(b) No case of passengers travelling on the foot-board due to overcrowding has been reported

(c) to (e) The daily average number of passengers travelling on this section at one time does not exceed about 4,500, whereas the coaches attached to the various trains on the section provide a total accommodation for about 6,200 passengers. There is, however, some amount of overcrowding on two trains namely Nos. 2BH (Hindumalkote-Bhatinda) & 2FH (Ferozepore-Cant.-Hindumalkote). It is proposed to augment the loads of these trains as and when additional coaches for the purpose become available.

#### Salem-Bangalore Rail Link

**1334. Shri Mohammed Imam:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Minister for Railways made a statement in course of his tour that the construction