

level crossing on Purnea-Katihar Road;

(b) if so, how far it has materialised; and

(c) when the actual work is expected to commence?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c) Presumably the hon'ble Members are referring to the proposal for construction of an over-bridge at Katihar level crossing on Purnea-Katihar Road. A road over-bridge in replacement of the existing level crossing had been foreseen but in view of the anticipated diversion of most of the vehicular traffic along the realigned State highway, the question of providing a foot-over-bridge instead of a road-over-bridge is under consideration in consultation with the State Government.

Quarters for Railway Employees

1636. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the eve of regrouping of the Railways, some of the staff who were transferred to Northern Railway, exercised their option that they were prepared to be transferred without the provision of quarters for some time to come;

(b) if so, their number; and

(c) how many of them have been provided with quarters?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The number of employees who came on transfer and registered for quarters is 491.

(c) 219 have been provided with quarters.

Strike at Ghaziabad

1637. { Shri Warfor:
Shri Kadiyan:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway traffic at Ghaziabad was dislocated on the 31st January and the 1st February, 1959; and

(b) whether any action has been taken against any of the railway staff at Ghaziabad in this connection.

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

Soft Wood for Match Industry

1638. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, which conducted extensive research in regard to the suitability of different varieties of soft wood for match industry recommended the use of about 100 different species of soft wood for the purpose; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to diversify the use of varieties of soft wood by the match industry for box veneers and splints?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir. Information has been collected on the suitability or otherwise of 23 species of Soft Wood.

(b) The information is being published as a bulletin for the benefit of the industry. The Institute deals with all enquiries on the subject from the industry and gives technical advice whenever required.