

they could not produce the material of satisfactory quality nor create a market for it in the country. The manufacture of white lac is a delicate process and the keeping quality of the resultant product is always uncertain.

The Indian Lac Research Institute at Namkum studied the problem during the last five years and have determined the conditions for producing white lac (known also as bleached lac) of dependable quality. The Institute is now making regularly about eight pounds of white lac per day. The production is readily sold and the quality has been widely appreciated by the consuming public. A pilot plant with an output of one maund of bleached lac per day is on order and is expected to go into production before the end of the year.

There is one more party in Calcutta, viz., Shri S. K. Roy who produces white lac in the country but his output is understood to be little at present.

#### **Bridge over the Mahananda near Malda**

**154. Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1246 on the 15th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the plan and the estimates to construct the road bridge over the River Mahananda near Malda Town on National Highway No. 34 have since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the date by which the work is likely to commence?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No., Sir. The plan and estimate received from the State Chief Engineer have been returned for modifications.

(b) The construction of this bridge is expected to commence in the cold weather of 1960-61.

#### **Test Audit of Western Shipping Corporation**

**155. Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been intimated about the results of the supplementary Test Audit of the Western Shipping Corporation conducted on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor-General for 1957-59 under Section 619(3)(b) of the Companies Act; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No, Sir. Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Assistants in Railway Board**

**156. Shri Maney:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of permanent posts of assistants filled up during the period from 1950 to 1958 in the Railway Board;

(b) the number of assistants belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes that were confirmed against the reserved quota; and

(c) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees officiating as assistants awaiting confirmation as on the 31st December, 1958?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 30].

(c) Scheduled Castes.	25.
Scheduled Tribes	Nil.