

Poona city is still under consideration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken in detail so far to meet the demands of the telephone connections in industrial estates?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) Yes.

(b) Third Exchange of initial size of about 3,000 lines is proposed to be opened in Poona for meeting the long-term demands. For this purpose, a new telephone exchange building has to be put up. Proposal to acquire a plot of land for the same has been approved.

(c) Proposals for the replacement of the existing 50-line exchanges at Pimpri and Hadaspar industrial estates by 200-line exchanges have been approved.

Removal of Fish Plates

1933. { Shri G. K. Jedhe:
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fish plates were removed in between Igatpuri and Ghoti stations in Maharashtra State between 5th and 9th August, 1961;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It was on the night between August 7 and 8, that a Watchman posted to guard a bridge between Igatpuri and Ghoti stations, stopped a Dn. express train and reported to the train crew as also the police escort that some mischief had been played with the track by certain miscreants. On an inspection of the track, it was found that the left hand side keys of 2 rail lengths had been taken away.

Also 2 complete pairs of fish plates along with bolts from 2 joints and fish bolts and outer fish plates from the third joint had been removed.

The train suffered a detention of 6 hrs. 20 minutes on this account.

(c) The police registered a case u/s 126 Indian Railways Act and have also arrested the Watchman along with 2 other gangmen who are reported to have been a party to this crime.

Water Arrangements in Carriages between Siliguri and Katihar

1934. { Shri Bholanath Biswas:
Shri P. G. Sen:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is scarcity of water in the carriages between Sili-guri and Katihar in N.F. Railway; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Over Bridge at Katihar

1935. { Shri Bholanath Biswas:
Shri P. G. Sen:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether the work of construction of over-bridge at Katihar has been taken up; and

(b) if so, when it is expected to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes.

(b) The Railway's portion of the work i.e. Bridge proper is expected to be completed before the end of 1962.