

creased two-folds during the last two years ;

(c) whether the licence fee has been increased five-folds this month ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such increase ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) A total licence fee of Rs. 8,295 was levied for each year from 1968 to 1970 on Sodawater stalls at stations on the Madras Beach—Tambaram Section.

(b) No.

(c) No, except in the case of the combined fruit and Soda water stall at Tambaram station for which the licence fee was increased from Rs. 600/- to Rs. 2750/- per annum with effect from 1.4. 1971.

(d) Arising out of a recommendation of the Railway Catering and Passenger Amenities Committee, 1967 that the licence fees levied from the Catering/Vending contractors should not exceed 5% of the sales turnover, which should be assessed periodically, it has been decided to revise the licence fee at 2½% of the sales turnover at the stations on this section.

#### Power shortage in North Bengal, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura

2847. SHRI A. K. SAHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any schemes for power generation in the north-eastern area including North Bengal, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura for overcoming the power shortage in these areas ;

(b) whether Jaldhaka Hydrel Power Station which is an important source of Power in that area remains closed during monsoon ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) The following power generation schemes have been taken up

for execution during the Fourth Five Year Plan :

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|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| (i) Package Thermal Plant at Chapramari in North Bengal     | .. 6 MW      |
| (ii) Kyrdomkolai Hydro Electric Project (Meghalaya)         | .. 2 × 30 MW |
| (iii) Thermal Extension at Namrup Power Station (Meghalaya) | .. 30 MW     |
| (iv) Loktak Hydro-Electric Project (Manipur)                | .. 2 × 35 MW |
| (v) Gumti Hydro-Electric Project (Tripura)                  | .. 2 × 5 MW  |

In addition to the above, proposals for setting up of a thermal power station with 240 MW capacity in North Bengal/North Bihar have been received from the West Bengal State Electricity Board/Bihar State Electricity Board, and are under scrutiny in the Central Water and Power Commission.

(b) and (c). During 1969 and 1970 monsoons, Jaldhaka Hydro-Electric Project had to be closed down due to presence of heavy quantity of silt, mud and debris in the intake, headrace tunnel and penstock. Power station had to be closed to avoid serious damage to plant and equipment. Further, at the times of receding floods, since the barrage was not complete, the waters used to rush through the unconstructed portion of the barrage, away from the intake. This will not repeat now since the barrage has been completed.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

माल डिब्बों की कमी के कारण वाहनों के परिवहन में विलम्ब

S.N.Q. 3. श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे माल डिब्बों के उपलब्ध न होने के कारण मध्य प्रदेश, पंजाब, हरियाणा तथा राजस्थान में वाहनों के परिवहन में काफी विलम्ब हो रहा है तथा आगामी वर्षा ऋतु के कारण भारी हानि होने की आशंका है ; और