

in progress. The work on the first two miles of the canal in the Nepalese territory is proposed to be taken up first by the Bihar Government for which tenders have been invited and the officers and staff posted. This will be followed by works on the remaining portion of the main Canal, distributaries etc in the entire Nepal portion. After the Nepal works have progressed well, the works on the Indian portion will be taken up.

(b) The Western Kosi Canal is estimated to cost about Rs. 37 crores. The cost of works lying in Nepal is about Rs. 7.46 crores and the Government of India have agreed to provide special assistance to the Government of Bihar so as to complete the works in Nepal Territory in three years.

New Railway Lines from Jhanjharpur to Loukaha, Sakri to Rosera and Extension of Broad Gauge Line from Samastipur to Raxaul VIA Darbhanga

281. SHRI BHOGLNDRA JHA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether surveys for constructing new Railway lines from Jhanjharpur to Loukaha and Sakri to Rosera and for extending the broad gauge line from Samastipur to Raxaul via Darbhanga in the Samastipur Division of the North Eastern Railway have been completed, and

(a) if so, the result thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T.A. PAI): (a) and (b) The following surveys have been completed:

(i) A feasibility study and traffic appreciation for the Jhanjharpur-Laukahabazar M.G. line, (length 42.55 kms - estimated cost Rs. 1.93 crores). According to the study report, the line is unremunerative. However, the report is under examination.

(ii) Engineering and traffic surveys for Samastipur-Raxaul via Darbhanga M.G. to B.G.

conversion (length 187 kms - cost Rs. 18.54 crores). The Survey Report shows that this conversion is also unremunerative. The report is however under examination.

No survey has been carried out for the Sakri-Rosera line. However, a traffic survey for a line from Hasanpur (near Rosera Ghat) to Sakri is being undertaken.

Proposal for location of thermal Power Plant at Katihar in Bihar

282. SHRI BHOGLNDRA JHA
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI

Will the MINISTER of IRRIGATION AND OWLR be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have got information about the Bihar Legislature having unanimously adopted a Resolution demanding location of the proposed thermal power project at Katihar in Bihar and opposing its shifting to Dhalkola in West Bengal, and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B.N. KUREEL): (a) Yes, Sir. A resolution to this effect is understood to have been passed by the Bihar Legislature. This has not, however, been communicated to the Government of India by the Bihar Government.

(b) The matter is under review.

Pilferers caught hold by Assistant Yard Master of Kanakaria Yard Ahmedabad

283. SHRI BHOGLNDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the night of the 27th-28th April, 1972 the Assistant Yard Master, Kankaria Yard, Ahmedabad (Western Railway) along with the shunting staff caught hold of pilferers stealing bags of grain from the loading yard with the connivance of the R.P.F. men on duty;

(b) whether the R.P.E. men concerned locked up the Assistant Yard Master and Shunting staff for two hours; and

(c) whether any report to this effect was made to the Station Master and if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T.A. PAI): (a) No. However on the night of 27th/28th April, 1972 two persons escaped when chased by the shunting staff leaving the wheat bags behind. No connivance of Railway Protection Force staff is reported in this case.

(b) No, but the Railway Protection Force staff behaved rudely with the Assistant Yard Master and the Shunting staff and took them to the R.P.F. post.

(c) Yes. The Station Master Kankaria was apprised of this incident by Sub-Inspector, Railway Protection Force. One Head Rakshak and two Rakshaks responsible for rude behaviour and improper action were placed under suspension.

Irrigation Commission Report

284. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the decisions taken by Government on the recommendations made by the Irrigation Commission ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : Government are examining the various recommendations made by the Irrigation Commission. As a first step the recommendations were considered at the meeting of State Ministers on Irrigation and Power held in Srinagar from 29th June to 1st July, 1972.

Cheap and Vulgar Songs Broadcast through internal loudspeakers of Rajdhani Expresses

285. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cheap and vulgar songs and other pop-music are being broadcast through internal loudspeakers of Rajdhani Expresses ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) and (b). Indian and Western music, classical as well as popular, is played on the internal Public Address System of Rajdhani Expresses. This includes Western non classical music for playing of which requests are received from many passengers. In addition, Vividh Bharati programmes of All India Radio are relayed over the Public Address System. The popular music played is similar to that generally relayed by All India Radio.

The Railway Administrations concerned have instructions to take audience reaction into account when deciding what music should be broadcast and when.

Setting up of Power Plants by States

286. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Punjab and some other States in the country have asked the Centre for setting up power plants ; and

(b) if so, the names of the States, the proposals made and the decisions taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requisite details are given in the enclosed Statement.