

been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) Complete information is being collected from the State Governments concerned and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) Following security and safety measures already exist in this regard:

1. Escorting of important Mail and Express Trains by Government Railway Police;
2. Detailing of plain-cloth Government Railway Police staff on affected Sections;
3. Assistance of Railway Protection Force for escorting duties, when needed;
4. Frequent surprise checks by Government Railway Police supervisory staff;
5. Safety devices in coaches are strengthened where required; and
6. Co-ordination Meetings among Government Railway Police, State Police and Railway Protection Force.

Dieselisation of Meerut Shuttle Trains

1204. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the shuttle trains of Northern Railway have since been dieselized; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing diesel engine to 2 NM and 1 NM Meerut shuttle trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No.

(b) Dieselisation of INM/2NM New Delhi-Meerut City shuttle is at present not feasible due to non-availability of spare diesel engines.

Introduction of Jute Special between Calcutta and Jogbani

1205. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether North-East Frontier Railway has decided to introduce a "Jute Special" between Calcutta and Jogbani; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) Metre Gauge wagons are supplied for loading jute consignments at Jogbani and moved in block rakes to Katihar where the contents are transhipped into Broad Gauge wagons. After transhipment, the broad gauge wagons are moved as a block rake to Kidderpore Docks. The average transit time from loading at Jogbani to arrival in Kidderpore Docks is about five days.

This scheme has been conceived and brought into effect mainly with a view to provide quick rail transport facilities for Jute exports *via* Calcutta Port.

Representation regarding supply of Sulphuric Acid from West Bengal

1206. SHRI A. K. KISKU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any representation from the small units in Bengal about the difficulties in getting adequate quantities of sulphuric acid at reasonable prices; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry

had received a representation from the small scale units in West Bengal in this regard

(b) The position was reviewed at a meeting held jointly with the representatives of the manufacturers and the consumers. The manufacturers were advised to make special efforts to meet the sulphuric acid requirements of the small scale units. Even though the sulphuric acid price is not statutorily controlled they were also advised to agree on a price which would be fair to both the parties.

पटना के निकट दीघा पर रेल पुल

1207 श्री रामावतार शास्त्री :
क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या गंगा नदी पर रेल पुल बनाने के सम्बन्ध में सर्वेक्षण काय बटुन पहले पूरा हो चुका है

(ख) क्या विशेषज्ञों ने रेल पुल के लिये पटना के निकट दीघा को सबसे उपयुक्त स्थल माना है, और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो पुल निर्माण का कार्य को प्रारम्भ करने में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) :

(क) में (ग) सम्भावित स्थिति का प्रारम्भिक सर्वेक्षण किया गया है और सबसे उपयुक्त स्थल पर पुल का निर्माण करने की तकनीकी व्यावहारिकता निश्चित करने के लिए मंडल अध्ययन विये जा रहे हैं और दीघा के निकट का स्थल विद्यार्थीन वैकल्पिक स्थलों में से एक है। विभिन्न स्थलों का माडल अध्ययन अभी पूरा नहीं हुआ है ?

Engineering-cum-Traffic survey of Roha-Agaradanda branch of Apta-Dasgaon Railway

1208 SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Railway Board had undertaken a preliminary engineering-cum-traffic survey of the Roha-Agaradanda branch of Apta-Dasgaon Railway (Konkan Railway); and

(b) if so, the result of the survey?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) and (b) Preliminary Engineering-cum-traffic survey from Roha on the Apta-Dasgaon line to Agaradanda is in progress and is expected to be completed shortly. A decision regarding its construction will be taken after the report is received and examined.

Foreign Interests in Petroleum Industries in India

1209 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state the latest position with regard to foreign economic interests in India in industries firms and concerns connected with petroleum?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI) Government intend acquiring effective control over the oil industry. The assets and operations of Esso in India were acquired in 1974. The operations of Burmah Shell have already been taken over on 24th January, 1976.

Negotiations regarding the take over of the assets and operations of Calcutta Assam Oil Company and Oil India Limited are in progress.