

merchants to accept booking beyond the closing hours could not be acceded to.

(iii) The system of periodical transfer is at present kept under abeyance. Nevertheless a new Station Master has since been posted at Gondia and arrangements have been made to keep a close watch on the working of the Parcel Office at Gondia.

Traffic on Jhanjharpur-Vachaspati Nagar Railway lines

3235. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No 210 on 9th March, 1976 regarding opening of Jhanjharpur-Andhrathari section for traffic and state:

(a) whether Jhanjharpur-Vachaspati Nagar portion of the Jhanjharpur-Loukahabazar railway line has since been opened to traffic;

(b) if so, facts thereabout;

(c) what is the latest position with regard to the Vachaspati Nagar-Loukahabazar section of the line being completed and opened to traffic; and

(d) what is the latest position with regard to the already 'approved project' of the Sakri-Hasanpur line, the reply of the State Government and time-schedule for starting and completing the construction work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). The work on section from Jhanjharpur to Vachaspati Nagar which is about half the length between Jhanjharpur and Loukaha bazar is practically complete and may be opened to traffic provided the State Government of Bihar pay the compensation to the owners of land whose land has been acquired for the project.

The work on the Vachaspati Nagar-Loukahabazar section is also held up as the State Government of Bihar have not taken any decision on the question of bearing the cost of land acquired for the purpose. Incidentally the project has made considerable progress and can be opened to traffic within a short period.

(d) Final reply from the Government of Bihar for bearing the cost of land and earthwork for Hasanpur-Sakri project is still awaited. Estimate can be sanctioned and schedule of construction can be drawn up after financial arrangements are accepted by the State Government.

Arrest of some officials of Assam Oil Company, Digboi

3236 SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Manager, the Chief Marketing Manager and some other senior officials of the Assam Oil Company, Digboi, Assam were arrested under D.I.R. and put in jail in the month of August, 1975,

(b) if so, the reasons for such arrest; and

(c) whether the charges levelled against them have been investigated and results thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) to (c). Three senior officials of Assam Oil Company viz. General Manager, Chief Marketing Manager and Technical Manager were arrested on 31st July, 1975 under Defence of India Rules for certain irregularities in the disposal of cement stock and were imprisoned in Dibrugarh Jail, but were subsequently released on 2nd August, 1975. Investigation of the charges against the individuals concerned has not yet been finalised.