

- (ii) information about the locust situation in India and the neighbouring countries, including a forecast, is supplied to the States periodically.
- (iii) the permanent Locust Warning Organisation of the Government of India functioning in Scheduled Desert Area has been strengthened to check the spread of locusts to other States in the country;
- (iv) an aerial unit consisting of four planes is in existence for fighting the locusts. The planes are made available to the States, as and when required by them, on request.

#### Railway Lines Running at Loss

1403. **Shri Bishwanath Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Railway lines of meter gauge and narrow gauge are running at a loss; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken for stopping the loss?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

Presumably part (a) of the question refers to the essentially metre gauge railways viz., North Eastern, Northeast Frontier and Southern Railways, and not to the other railways which include comparatively small portions of narrow or metre gauge like Central, Eastern and South Eastern Railways.

The North Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railways are running at a loss, as will be seen from the financial results of the working of the zonal railways indicated in the Budget documents—Appendix VII of the booklet "Appendices to the Supple-

ment to the Explanatory Memorandum for 1962-63" which was circulated as part of the budget papers for 1962-63. It is necessary to explain, however, that in addition to the inherently less economic nature of working of metre gauge and narrow gauge lines than of broad gauge lines, there are also other factors accentuating the losses such as the absence of significant industrial development in large areas through which a Railway passes which results in a preponderance of passenger traffic, etc.

In order to improve the position to the extent possible, continued strict control on expenditure is being enforced, besides every effort made to improve adverse trends of operation etc. These measures have borne some fruits as explained in pages 100 and 101 of the "Review" circulated with the Budget documents for 1962-63.

#### Jhansi Ayurvedic University

1404. **Shri A. T. Sarma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government was giving financial aid to the Jhansi Ayurvedic University for the past many years and have stopped the same now;

(b) if so, the amount of aid paid during the past years; and

(c) the cause for stopping the same at present?

**The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar):** (a) Yes.

(b) On the recommendations of the Government of Uttar Pradesh a sum of Rs. 40,000 was paid to the Jhansi Ayurvedic University during the years 1952-53 to 1955-56.

(c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh did not recommend further assistance.