

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to attach Dining Cars to the 15 Up and 16 Dn. Express trains running between Lucknow Junction and Siliguri on the North Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, when it will materialise and the distance it will cover; and

(c) whether these will be run on a departmental basis or through any other agency?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise

#### House Rent Allowance to Women Employees

4136. Shri Esvara Reddy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from women employees working as sweepers (safawali) at Char Bag, Lucknow (U.P.);

(b) if so the nature of their demands;

(c) whether Government have decided to stop the payment of house rent allowance to these women employees;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether these women employees have been asked to refund the house rent allowance given to them in the past?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Yes.

(b) Their house rent allowance should not be stopped and house rent allowance so far paid to them may not be recovered from their salaries on account of their sharing accommodation with their husbands who are

also railway employees and have been allotted railway quarters.

(c) Yes.

(d) No house rent allowance is admissible to those who do not incur any expenditure on rent for their accommodation. As a wife who resides with her husband is obviously not called upon to incur any expenditure on house rent, she has no claim to house rent allowance.

(e) Yes.

#### Survey of Minerals in Bastar

4138. Shri J. Sundar Lal: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for the survey and exploitation of different minerals and metals in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

#### Railway Line from Raipur to Jagdalpur

4139. Shri J. Sundar Lal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a Railway line from Raipur to Jagdalpur in Bastar District in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). Feasibility-cum-cost studies for a new broad gauge railway line between Dantewara and Dhalli Rajhara were carried out recently. The length of