

Loss to Railways due to Assam Agitation

*149. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to the agitation in Assam the Railways had to undergo a heavy loss ;

(b) if so, whether the rail traffic has once again been disrupted due to the recent agitation.

(c) if so, the total loss suffered by the Railways ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to revive the movement of trains in the state ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) yes Sir.

(c) Over the 9 month period from January to September, 1980, the loss of freight traffic in physical terms on account of the agitation in Assam has been 3.15 million tonnes (approx.) on Indian Railways. In monetary terms, this works out to a loss of Rs. 24 crores (approx). Passenger traffic has also been seriously affected because of the agitation. It is not possible to quantify the loss in financial terms on passenger traffic.

(d) Efforts are being made to run maximum number of trains. The cases of hold up of trains are also being brought to the notice of the State Government and their assistance sought in restoring train services in the State as per the requirements.

Modernisation of Calcutta Port

*150. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) What are the steps that the Government has taken to modernise the Port of Calcutta ; and

(b) What are the proposals of the Government ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) and (b) The process of modernisation of Calcutta Port by way of replacement of old and obsolete plant and equipment and other port facilities has been going on through plan development works right from the beginning of First Five Year Plan. An amount of Rs. 74.00 crores has been spent in this connection upto the period 1979-80.

2. The creation of Haldia Dock System at a cost of Rs. 145.74 crores was also a part of the process of modernisation of Calcutta Port by providing facilities for handling bulk traffic and containers.

3. During 1980-81, a provision of Rs. 4.91 crores has been made for development of schemes aimed at modernisation of Calcutta Port. The Port has recently placed orders for the procurement of 8 Nos. 3-tonne wharf and yard electric cranes and replacement of 7 Nos. 6-tonne capacity and 2 Nos. 10-tonne capacity mobile cranes. They have also replaced 18 of their old forklift trucks.

4. Schemes regarding conversion of hopper barge into grab dredger, replacement of tugs 'Sturdy and Lotus', Hi-Fix chain and procurement of 5 diesel locomotives are under processing. Twenty old forklifts are also proposed to be replaced.

5. For the 6th Five Year Plan period 1980-85, CPT has suggested, in addition to 1980-81 schemes, certain modernisation schemes like replacement of cranes, tractors, locomotives, hydraulic engines, dredgers etc.

6. Certain training measures essential for revitalising the Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System are being executed by Calcutta Port Trust. Expenditure on these works is met by the Central Government. An amount of Rs. 20.70 crores has so far been spent in this connection.

Construction of a National Highway from Delhi to Bombay

*151. SHRI NAND KISHORE SHARMA :

SHRI ASHOKGE HLOT :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government propose to construct a National Highway from Delhi to Bombay from Mayapuri Industrial area in Delhi and running parallel to Delhi-Ajmer metre gauge rail line touching Ahmedabad and Surat and going upto Bombay connecting thereby Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra with a single road ; and

(b) If so, how much road is completed as also the time by which remaining road is likely to be completed and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA