

A Traffic survey is also in progress for a new B.G. line from Budget Budge to Namkhana via Diamond Harbour, Kulpi and Kakdwip (86 Gms).

No other survey for any rail link in the Sundarban region has been conducted in the recent past.

The proposals will be considered further after the survey reports are examined and results known.

Over-crowding in trains between Ahmedabad and Bombay

*559. SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mail and express trains running between Ahmedabad and Bombay are over-crowded;

(b) whether Government propose to run more trains and/or add extra carriages to the existing trains with a view to relieving the pressure on passenger traffic; and

(c) if so, salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. However, the extent of over-crowding is not such as to justify introduction of an additional train between Ahmedabad and Bombay which is at present operationally also not feasible due to lack of capacity on sections enroute. However, loads of some of the existing trains have been augmented to relieve over-crowding.

(c) Particulars of coaches added are:

(i) 1 Dn|2 Up Gujarat Mails—one First class and one second class 3-tier sleeper coaches between Bombay and Ahmedabad.

(ii) 19 Dn|20 Up Dehra Dun Express one first class and one 3-tier sleeper between Bombay and Vadodara.

(iii) 9 Dn|10 Up Gujarat Queen—two ordinary second class coaches between Valsad and Ahmedabad.

O. & N.G.C. Team's visit to Libya

*560. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Oil and Natural Gas Commission team recently visited Libya; and

(b) if so, the conclusions of their visit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The team has submitted its report to the ONGC only recently and the report is being examined by the Commission.

Coaching Vehicles and Goods Wagons in the Country

*561. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of coaching vehicles and goods wagons at present in service in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): As on 31st March, 1974 the coaching vehicles and wagons owned by the Railways was 36,426 and 3,88,026 respectively. In addition 80 coaching vehicles and 924 wagons were owned by non-Government Railways.

Growth Rate of Monopoly Houses

*562. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several monopoly houses have registered 25 per cent growth rate during 1972 and 30 per cent in 1973 and 1974;

(b) whether this increasing trend is also expected again in 1975;