

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) As per present schedule the waters of the Beas are likely to be diverted into Sutlej by December, 1973.

(b) The participating States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are to be benefited by this scheme.

Provision of Telephone facility in running Trains

*1662. SHRI K. C. PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a necessity for providing telephone facilities in the Air-conditioned and First class coaches, and in Dining cars, brake-vans and the Engines ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to provide this facility in all important trains ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) There is no necessity for such facilities.

(b) Does not arise.

Old steamers running between Mahendru Ghat and Paleza Ghat in Bihar

*1664. SHRI RAM SHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether steamers running between Mahendru Ghat and Paleza Ghat in Bihar have fulfilled their terms prescribed for their service at the time of purchase of the steamers ;

(b) if so, whether these steamers are old and are causing constant trouble in performing satisfactory service especially in the rainy season ; and

(c) whether the steamer Yamuna creates trouble while running in the river and sometimes the passengers are stranded in the river for the whole night and sometimes for four or five hours due to the trouble in the steamer ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Steamers were originally purchased for general ferry service across the Ganga and not specifically for any one point. They are rendering satisfactory service since the time of purchase.

(b) The normal estimated life of these steamers is 35 years. Since these three crafts were purchased in 1950, they have only expended three fifth of their life. Sometimes at the height of the rainy season river crossings take longer. The crafts sometimes get into trouble in service.

(c) Performance of the Steamer Yamuna is on the whole satisfactory. This steamer ran into difficulty, took longer time to cross the river, on 3 or 4 occasions during the monsoon this year. This was on account of high floods, strong current and cyclonic weather, etc. and not due to age or condition of the steamer.

Electricity generated by Damodar Valley Corporation and distributed to West Bengal and Bihar

*1666. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of electricity generated by Damodar Valley Corporation at present and the names of the units where electricity is generated together with the quantum thereof ;

(b) the ratio in which West Bengal and Bihar are supplied electricity by Damodar Valley Corporation ; and

(c) whether the Central Government have received any memorandum from the Bihar Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) to (c). The Damodar Valley Corporation during 1970-71 generated 4003 million units of electricity in its units located at Bokaro Durgapur, Chandrapura, Tilaiya, Maithon