

(b) The ex-General Manager informed that

- (i) the S. S. Light Railway Company was put into members voluntary liquidation on 10-12-70.
- (ii) The liquidators have sold the entire assets of the company, barring a few items.
- (iii) By 28-5-71, nearly 16 KMs. of track had been lifted and the process of lifting is continuing.
- (iv) The staff have been almost settled up and paid their provident fund dues; disbursement of terminal benefits also is in progress.

The discussion was only general.

Linking of Brahmaputra and Indus Rivers

*652. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to give linking to the Indus and the Brahmaputra rivers; and

(b) if so, when the scheme is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Line from Chinnai Salem to Chingleput (Southern Railway)

*653. SHRI BHUVARAHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay a new railway line from Chinnai Salem to Chingleput;

(b) whether any survey report in this regard is pending before the Railway Board;

(c) whether the Railway Board has considered that survey report, and if so, the result thereof; and

(d) whether the Tamil Nadu Government had made some representation in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Tamil Nadu had suggested that a survey for this line may be taken up during the 4th Plan.

Afro-Asian Conference on Small-scale Industries

*654. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the terms of reference of the Standing Committee set up by the Afro-Asian Conference on small-scale Industries held in April, 1971; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to encourage closer coordination between large-scale industries and small units in our country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) The terms of reference of the Standing Committee are as follows :—

- (i) To present the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference to the competent Authorities in Afro-Asian countries, especially to those whose representatives were unable to participate in the present session;
- (ii) To communicate these conclusions to regional and international agencies and organisations;
- (iii) To encourage joint action between member countries for the implementation of these conclusions;
- (iv) To stimulate external aid and collaboration;
- (v) To study and to report to the next Conference on the possibilities of setting up a permanent structure for the promotion of Afro-Asian cooperation in the field of small-scale industry;