

capacity in the unembanked reaches and drainage congestion caused by the inadequacy of the existing drainage system to cope up with the run off resulting from heavy rainfall.

(b) The West Bengal Government have formulated a comprehensive scheme for flood control and drainage improvement in the Lower Damodar basin. A part of the scheme comprising the re-sectioning of the Amta Channel, construction of outfall sluice and drains in the Amta basin estimated to cost Rs. 6.8 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission and work has been started during 1970-71. The State Government have informed that the detailed scheme for the balance works consisting of construction of embankments on both sides of Mandeswari, dredging of Rupnarain and sluices estimated to cost Rs. 8.68 crores has been prepared and will be sent to the Centre shortly for scrutiny. The works under this scheme are to be taken up after it is approved by the Planning Commission. It has been suggested to the State Government that the entire scheme should be implemented on a priority basis within the next three years.

#### Take-over of S. S. Light Railway

\*341. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any final decision has been taken regarding the taking over of S. S. Light Railway;

(b) if not, the reason therefor; and

(c) whether there is a growing discontent among the people of some Districts in U. P. because of the discontinuance of S. S. Light Railway ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Government has taken a decision not to take over the erstwhile S. S. Light Railway.

(b) The question of Government's taking over the Railway was examined in detail and

it was found that the undertaking would not be viable. If it is taken over, the expenditure would greatly increase because the pay and allowances of the employees will have to be brought at par with the other employees of the Railways. The condition of rolling stock and the track has to be improved and additional works have to be undertaken to provide more facilities. The Ministry of Railways also did not see any possibility of substantially augmenting the earnings of the Light Railway.

(c) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received to this effect.

#### Construction of barrage by Pakistan over River Ganga

\*347. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan is constructing a barrage over river Ganga in Pakistan territory;

(b) if so, whether such a barrage will be a danger to Calcutta and other Indian important cities during the flood season; and

(c) the reaction of Central Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) Reports have appeared in the Pakistan Press that the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council of Pakistan has approved a scheme for the construction of a barrage across the river Padma involving a total expenditure of Rs. 349 crores.

(b) The design of the proposed project on the Padma has been changing from time to time. A very high pond level as now proposed by Pakistan will create back water effects likely to effect large tracts of the Indian territory.

(c) The Government of India have already protested against such a project.