

(b) if so, the details of the Technical Committee report in this regard and the details of the estimates ; and

(c) how soon the lines will be restored to passenger traffic and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI NANDA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question affecting these two branch lines in so far as the Technical Committee's report is concerned, is the discharge of the river Teesta near Jalpaiguri. This discharge has been estimated as 7 lakhs cusecs maximum on 50 years' frequency. Accordingly, the Railway has been advised to undertake a proper survey to assess the effect of the higher discharge of 7 lakhs cusecs on the stability of the two branch lines and also to work out the financial implications involved in their restoration.

The restoration of these branch lines will be considered after the results of the survey referred to above are received from the Northeast Frontier Railway.

बिधि व्यवसाय का राष्ट्रीयकरण

*597. श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र : क्या बिधि तथा समाज कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिधि व्यवसाय के राष्ट्रीयकरण सम्बन्धी कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) क्या उक्त व्यवसाय में विद्यमान भ्रष्टाचार को समाप्त करने के लिये सरकार के विचाराधीन कोई अन्य विकल्प है ?

बिधि तथा समाज कल्याण मंत्री (जी हनुमन्तध्या) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) जी नहीं ।

Offer of advance to meet expenditure on construction of new Railway link from Jakhapura to Dubari (South Eastern Railway)

*598. SHRI G. C. NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Orissa Mining Corporation has agreed to advance Rs. 67 lakhs to the Railway authorities for the construction of Railway link from Jakhapura to Dubari on the South Eastern Railway ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the implementation of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (b). Though the Orissa Mining Corporation was advised of their share of the cost of the Jakhapura-Dhubri Siding (Private-cum-Assisted) in June, 1969, it was only in October, 1969, that they agreed to bear their share of cost i. e., Rs. 66 lakhs and that too in four equal annual instalments and the Railway Board as a very special case, have agreed to this mode of payment. Of the first due instalment of Rs. 16.5 lakhs for 1969-70, Orissa Mining Corporation have so far deposited only Rs. 7.5 lakhs, that too also in two instalments, despite repeated requests made by the South Eastern Railway Administration to deposit the full annual instalment. Formal application for construction of this siding has yet to be made by the Orissa Mining Corporation and the matter is being pursued vigorously by the South Eastern Railway with the Orissa Mining Corporation. Construction of this siding can be proceeded with only after the Orissa Mining Corporation submits their formal application for construction of the siding and also deposits sufficient amount. However, the survey for the siding has been completed and plans and estimates are under preparation by the South Eastern Railway.

Amalgamation of metro-gauge sections of Northern and Western Railways

*599. SHRI N. K. SANGHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision was