

tonnes inclusive of 38.70 lakh tonnes of rice.

(e) Rice has been imported with a view to replenishing the Government stock. The need for import has arisen because of drought conditions which adversely affected rice production in 1982-83.

Railways in the North Eastern Region

*152. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee of the Planning Commission for the development of Railways in the North Eastern Region;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have implemented those recommendations;

(c) if so, how many new Railway lines have so far been constructed in that region; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b) In their report, the National Transport Policy Committee have not made any recommendations specific to the development of the railways in the North Eastern Region.

(c) and (d) Six new railway lines one for each of the States in the North Eastern Region are under Construction. Another Broad Gauge line from Joghopa to Gauhati together with a road cum rail bridge across Brahmaputra river at Joghopa, has been included in the current year's budget.

Constitution of National Leprosy Eradication Commission

*153. SHRI CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a National Leprosy Eradication Commission;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Commission is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The Government have already constituted the National Leprosy Eradication Commission, under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare. The Central Ministers of Finance, Planning, Chemicals and Fertilisers, and the Minister of State for Education & Social Welfare five Chief Ministers of the States, and eight eminent leprologists, social workers and other engaged in Leprosy Control and Health for All Programmes in the country, are the Members of the Commission.

Pilferage of goods in the Railways

*154. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of goods under the various Railway Zones due to pilferage during the last one year;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are spending crores of rupees on the R.P.F.;

(c) if so, what is the total amount of money spent on the R.P.F. during the last one year; and

(d) what steps the Railways propose to take to streamline the R.P.F. to prevent pilferage of goods?