

Missing of gold from Calcutta- Bombay Mail

[2339. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in the Telegraph, Calcutta of 7th July, 1983 regarding missing of gold worth Rs. 50 lakhs from the Calcutta-Bombay Mail; and

(b) if so, the result of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the matter and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) Yes.

(b) On 2-7-83. Post & Telegraph Department staff on duty in the Railway Mail Service van of 3 Up Howrah Bombay Mail complained to the Government Railway Police, Bombay VT, about 2 R.M.S. employees having broken the seal of an insured postal parcel and misappropriating its contents valued at about Rs. 5,000). Government Railway Police, Bombay registered a case of misappropriation vide Crime No. 130/83 under Section 409/461 and 34 IPC against 2 R.M.S. staff who have since been arrested by the Police in this case and further investigations are in progress.

Irrigation Potential

2340. SHRI DEBENDRA NATH BARMAN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the irrigation potential of the country; and

(b) the funds needed to carry out the modernisation programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION

• f Previously Unstarred Question 1943 transferred from the 11th August 1983.

(a) The ultimate irrigation potential of the country has been assessed at 113 million hectares. 63.3 million hectares of potential have been created upto June, 1983.

(b) All the irrigation schemes do not need modernisation. State Governments have been advised to identify the irrigation systems which need modernisation. So far 7 modernisation schemes estimated to cost Rs. 336 crores have been sanctioned and 31 schemes estimated to cost Rs. 2245 crores received from the State Governments are under examination. No. assessment of the total requirement of funds for the modernisation programme needed has been made.

Construction of additional line at Coal sidings

2341. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal siding projects have been stalled due to the controversy between coal companies and railways over the creation of additional line at the sidings to retain sick wagons;

(b) if so, whether this is likely to hamper coal movement;

(c) what are the other points on which the coal movement has been stalled; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take, to resolve the controversy to ensure quicker movement of coal all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.