

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a)

| Month | No of wagons loaded | |
|-----------|---------------------|---------|
| | 1977-78 | 1978-79 |
| April | 11 | 8 |
| May | 6 | 12 |
| June | 6 | 11 |
| July | 10 | 19 |
| August | 10 | 20 |
| September | 25 | 8 |
| October | 26 | 5 |
| November | 17 | 13 |
| December | 19 | 15 |
| January | 36 | 6 |
| February | 24 | 6 |
| March | 20 | 9 |
| | [upto 10th March] | |

(b) Due to very heavy congestion of loaded stock on N.F. Railway and to avoid further stagnation of wagons there, loading of traffic to N.F. Railway had to be regulated as follows: From Northern Railway remained restricted for 18 days in December '78, 26 days in January '79 and 24 days in February '79.]

Removal or conversion of railway level crossing in Siliguri

1666. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the people of Siliguri urging Government to remove or convert the railway level crossing at the heart of Siliguri town near Siliguri Road Station which is causing great inconvenience to a large number of people due to total dislocation of road traffic; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Yes.

(b) A proposal for construction of a road over-bridge at Siliguri is under

†[] English translation.

joint consideration of the Railway and the West Bengal State Government.

Study conducted in and around Bangalore to deal with the commuter type of passenger-traffic

1667. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study of the existing rail configuration survey in and around Bangalore to deal with the commuter type of passenger traffic;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide a Mass Rapid Transit system by railways for Bangalore like that for Bombay, Calcutta and Madras keeping in view of population of the city; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (c) No.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

'Kara' as an offensive weapon in U.K.

1668. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U. K. is interfering with the religious sentiments of the Indians living in that country;

(b) whether recently 'kara' a religious symbol of Sikhs has been declared as an offensive weapon; and

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the British authorities and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) No, Sir.