

Construction of new Railway Line from New Maynaguri to Sitai under N. F. Railway

339. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to construct a new railway line from New Maynaguri to Sitai via Mathabhangha under the N.F. Railway;

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in this direction; and

(c) by when the project is expected to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) A Traffic-cum-Reconnaissance a survey for the proposed new BG rail link from New Maynaguri to Sitai via Saptibari and Mathabhangha is in progress; and is likely to be completed by 31-12-76. The proposal can be considered further for being taken up for construction only after the survey reports are received and examined from Technical and Financial aspects.

Repair of railway line from Mal Bazar to Changrabandha

340. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government recently have received any representation to repair the metre gauge railway line from Mal Bazar to Changrabandha under N. F. Railway, which was damaged by floods in the year 1968; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS. (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The Section from New Mal Jn. to Domohani has already been reopened to traffic since November, 1974. The restoration of the Section between Domchani and Changrabandha has been found justified as the restored link will attract very little traffic and will not be financially viable.

However, on a request from the West Bengal Government, this is being re-examined *de.novo*.

Cases of Chain pulling on Trains

341. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of cases of chain pulling in a month during one year preceding the proclamation of the emergency; and

(b) the average number of such cases in a month during the period of emergency?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): (a) 27,279 per month.

(b) 7,756 per month.

Transfer of Railway employees from Khagraghat Railway Station

342. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some Railway employees were recently transferred from Khagraghat Railway Station for their involvement in Railway Strike in May, 1974?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SARDAR BUTA SINGH): No.