

Government is not called upon to take any action on the reply given by the Registrar of Trade Unions as this does not constitute a decision by the Registrar.

EARTHQUAKES IN SONEPAT

•240. SHRI BANSI LAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sonapat town in Punjab felt earthquake shocks six times during the months of August, September and October, 1963;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government have investigated the causes of such frequent earthquakes there; and

(c) if so, what were the causes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN): (a) During the months of August, September and October, 1963, the Seismological Observatory at Delhi recorded slight tremors around Delhi, with epicentres about 40 to 60 kilometres to the northwest of Delhi, between Rohtak and Sonapat. Some of these tremors might have been felt in Sonapat town.

(b) and (c) No special investigation has been made by the Geological Survey of India for these minor tremors.

FLOODING OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS FROM DELHI TO AGRA AND AGRA TO GWALIOR

•244. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways from Delhi to Agra and Agra to Gwalior were flooded sometime between 15th to 30th September, 1963;

(b) if so, for how long water was flowing on these Highways; and

(c) what was the depth of the water on the Highways?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING in THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Highway No. 2 from Delhi to Agra was flooded in September 1963 in miles 50/2 to 51/4 from Delhi. There was no flooding on the Agra-Gwalior Section of National Highway No. 3.

(b) The National Highway No. 2 was submerged under water as mentioned above for four weeks from 16th September 1963 onwards:

(c) The depth of the water varied from 0 to 3 feet.

CONSTRUCTION OF POST AND TELEGRAPH BUILDINGS

•245. SHRI J. K. P. NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether the formation of the Civil Construction Wing in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs has been completed;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some of the Divisions in the Uttai Pradesh Circle, the construction maintenance etc. are still being looked after by the Telephone/Telegraph Officers who are not qualified Civil Engineers;

(c) what machinery had been provided for by the Department of Posts and Telegraphs to check whether defective material is not used by contractors while constructing Post and Telegraph buildings;

(d) whether it is a fact that the materials used in some of the buildings recently constructed in the Meerut Division of the Uttai Pradesh Circle were not according to the specifications laid down; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to get these examined by the Chief Technical Examiner of the Government of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) Yes.

(b) Building works costing upto specified limits are carried out by the Divisional Engineers assisted by qualified Building Overseers. Works beyond the specified limits are carried out by the Civil Engineering Wing of the P and T Department.

(c) The same procedure as in C.P.W.D. is being followed to avoid use of defective materials by contractors.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

NEW RAILWAY ZONE

*249. SHRI DAYALDAS KURRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration by Government to create a new Railway Zone; and

(b) if so, in which part of the country it will be created?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Not at present, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DOUBLING OF RAILWAY TRACK BETWEEN COCHIN AND COIMBATORE

*250. DR. A. SUBBA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of doubling the railway track between Cochin and Coimbatore has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, what is the decision taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Doubling of the section will not be required for the level of traffic anticipated at the end of the Third Plan, as the present capacity can be substantially augmented by adopting other cheaper methods.

SPECIAL CLASS APPRENTICES ON N.E. RAILWAY

*252. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Class Apprentices on the North Eastern Railway are accommodated in service at the expense of officiating class II officers duly appointed after selection; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SUICIDE BY EMPLOYEE OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

*253. SHRI DHANANJOY MOHAN-TY: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether an employee of the Posts and Telegraphs Department by name Shri Sunil Kumar committed suicide at Jabalpur in October, 1963; and

(b) if so, what was the cause of the suicide?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) and (b) Shri Sunil Kumar Chakra-varty, an Industrial Worker in the Telegraph Workshops Jabalpur is reported to have been run over by Howrah-Bombay Mail train on the