

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 16th July, 1963 a goods train was derailed and some portion thereof became upside down between Jatinga and Mailongdisa Stations on the Lumding-Badarpur Section of the North-East Frontier Railway and the line was blocked to traffic for about two days;

(b) whether it is a fact that a similar accident occurred on the same spot on the 20th July, 1963; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps were taken to guard against such incidents?

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

(b) Another goods train derailed on the adjacent block section but not at the same spot.

(c) (1) Special rules for carriage and wagon examination and maintenance laid down for Lumding-Badarpur hill section are being rigidly observed.

(2) All hill section loads are examined intensively.

(3) All spring cambers are measured and the measurements recorded.

(4) Surprise checks on the hill section loads are carried out by officers and subordinates to ensure safe running of trains.

(5) Adequate instructions already exist for proper maintenance of permanent way and patrolling of section during monsoon and these are being rigidly observed.

SUGAR MARKETING BOARD

136. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Sugar Marketing Board soon; and

(b) if so, what would be the function of that Board and when the actual operation of that Board will begin?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) The Board when formed will be responsible for arranging distribution of sugar produced by factories within the country and export outside.

THEFT OF TELEPHONE WIRE FROM KARIMGANJ

137. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone wires covering a three-mile area from Akbar to Fakirer bazar, about four miles from the border town of Karimganj, District Cachar (Assam) had been stolen; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) There was a theft of about one and half miles of a pair of telephone wires on the lines from Karimganj to East Pakistan border on the night of 18th June, 1963.

(b) A complaint regarding the theft was lodged with the Officer-in-charge, Police Station, Karimganj on 20th June, 1963. The matter was also reported to Superintendent of Police, Cachar and Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Shillong. The case is still under investigation. The line was put in working order on 21st June, 1963.