

RESUMPTION OF AIR SERVICE BETWEEN PATNA AND MUZAFFARPUR

•69. SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any letter was received by his Ministry from the Government of Bihar in September last in connection with the suggested resumption of air service between Patna and Muzaffarpur in North Bihar; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHRUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In consultation with the Indian Airlines Corporation the Bihar Government were informed that the Corporation are not interested in operating air services between Patna and Muzaffarpur as the distance involved between these two places is comparatively short, not even 50 miles and the aircraft in the fleet of the Corporation are totally unsuited, from the point of view of economics, for the operation of such short routes.

(EXTRA LINES AND SIDINGS NEAR PANOLI)

•70. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Western Railway are laying extra lines and sidings or constructing a new yard near Panoli about 480 kilometers from Bombay on the Western Railway; and

(b) if so, what is the purpose of this new line?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Western Railway is laying sidings for the use of and at the cost of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Panoli which is at a distance of 306.09 Kilometers from Bombay.

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RAILWAY LINE FROM BILASPUR TO MANDLA

•71. SHRI DAYALDAS KURRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the circumstances in which the construction of the railway line from Bilaspur to Mandla via Mungeli in Madhya Pradesh could not be taken up and completed by now?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): A Preliminary Engineering Survey for a narrow gauge line between Bilaspur and Mandla via Mungeli was carried out during 1906-07. The results of the survey revealed that the construction of the line could not be financially justified. Hence its construction was not taken up.

SUGAR ALLOTMENT TO ORISSA

•72. SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total allotment of sugar for Orissa for the months of August and September, 1961;

(b) whether there was any request from the Government of Orissa to the Chief Director of Sugar, New Delhi, to send extra sugar for "Dashera" festival; and

(c) what was the total amount received by the Director of Sugarcane through bank draft from Orissa during October, 1961?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) August 1961—3789 tons; September 1961—2572 tons.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Rs. 21,179.

PARKING FEE ON VEHICLES IN CONNAUGHT PLACE

•73. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state whether the New Delhi Municipal Committee has decided to levy a parking fee on vehicles parked in Connaught Place in New Delhi?