

locomotives in the first instance. Two of them have already been ordered on the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, where their manufacture is to be established. No new factory is proposed to be set up.

DIESELISATION OF ERODE-COCHIN SECTION

404. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to introduce diesel locomotives between Erode and Cochin has since been finalised; and

(b) if so, when the locomotives are likely to be introduced on this Section?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

ADDITIONAL EXPRESS OR MAIL TRAINS BETWEEN NEW DELHI AND MADRAS

405. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the heavy volume of passenger traffic obtaining between New Delhi and Madras, Government propose to introduce an additional express or mail train on this route; and

(b) the time by when this additional train is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) Does not arise.

INCREASE IN THE FOREIGN PARTICIPATION SHARE IN SHIPPING INDUSTRY

406. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to increase the foreign participation share in shipping industry up to 40 per cent; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) The matter is under examination.

(b) Does not arise.

RICE DELEGATION TO BURMA

407. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any delegation was recently sent to Burma for the purchase of rice; and

(b) if so, the results of the negotiations held there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Agreement was executed which provides for the purchase by India of not less than 1.5 lakh tons of boiled rice annually for a period of three years commencing from the 1st January, 1963. For 1963 a purchase contract for import of 1.5 lakh tons of rice and additional quantities if required and available was also signed.

RAIL LINK BETWEEN EAST AND WEST PAKISTAN

408. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan has taken up the question of providing a direct railway-link between East and West Pakistan through the territory of India; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER *m* THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) The question of grant of transit facilities by India and Pakistan for the rail movement of civilian traffic (passengers, parcels and goods) passing from one area to another of the same country through the other country has been under the consideration of Government for some time but no final decision in the matter has so far been arrived at.

MORE FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF NEW TONNAGE

409. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Shipping Board has requested Government for more funds for the acquisition of new tonnage; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) No such request has come after the III Plain target for gross acquisition was raised from 3,75,000 G.R.T. to 5,50,000 G.R.T.

(b) Does not arise.

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OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed to other items of business on the Order Paper, I have to inform Members with regret that one of our ex-Members, Shri J. H. Subbiah, passed away on December 15, 1962. He was a Member of this House from April 1952 to April 1954. He was a social worker and took keen interest in education and the uplift of the Scheduled Caste_s. I would request

the Members to rise in their seats and observe one minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased

(Hon. Members then *stood* in siletwe *for one minute.*)

I shall ask the Secretary to convey to the members of the bereaved family the sense of sorrow and sympathy o* this House.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

COLOMBO CONFERENCE PROPOSALS AND RELATED PAPERS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers: —

(i) Colombo Conference Proposals.

(ii) Clarifications given by th* three visiting delegations oi the Colombo Conference to the Government of India during their meetings in Delhi on 12th and 13th January, 1963.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-656/63 for (i) and (ii)]

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, according to press reports the Government of India had submitted a memorandum to the delegations of the Colombo Conference. May I know whether a copy of that memorandum will be placed on the Table of the Sabha?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I will have to find out.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA (Uttar Pradesh): May I ask a question? According to the papers of today we