

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?