

MR. CHAIRMAN: His question is different. He wants to know whether there are any birds or animals rare to this country and whether you have notified them.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: That is, where there is a danger of the varieties disappearing. It is generally known now but I think more publicity could be given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether there are any birds or animals peculiar to this country which are not found elsewhere.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: That I shall have to find out.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Government had on several occasions notified about the necessity of safeguarding against the extinction of rare tigers, lions and leopards. May I know why the rules are not being enforced against the people who poach?

SHRI S. K. PATIL: This question is coming to the forefront now. During the last few years we have been taking special interest in this matter. I would invite hon. Members of this House to pay a visit to our zoo. It is something very worth seeing. We are now forming an Executive Committee and just now it is in a very excellent condition.

**REPAIR OF TRACK AND PROVISION OF
ADDITIONAL COACHES ETC. ON THE
NARROW GAUGE SECTION OF THE
WESTERN RAILWAY**

•458. SHRI MAGANBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan under Government's consideration to repair the tracks of the narrow gauge section of the Gujarat region of Western Railway and for providing additional coaches, power and wagons on the same section; and

(b) if «o, what is the plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER or RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b) Information is not compiled State-wise, but Railway-wise. Approximately 81-50 miles of Narrow Gauge track on the Western Railway have been renewed during the Second Plan period and about 245 miles have been programmed for renewal during the Third Plan Period,

A small provision for additional coaches, power and wagons for Narrow Gauge sections of the Indian Railways has been included in the Railways' Tentative Third Five Year Plan proposals. The share of the Narrow Gauge Section of the Western Railway has not yet been determined.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: May I know whether it is a fact that the train between Nadiad and Bhadran stops at times due to the failure of the engine? If so, do the Government intend to replace the old engines with new ones?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: I do not know the local conditions, and possibly due to some trouble they might have been stopped. If there is any need, the local authorities will look into this.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May I know how many of these Narrow Gauge lines are due for conversion into Broad Gauge, if any?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: That involves a broad question of policy whether the Narrow Gauge lines should be converted into Broad Gauge. No decision has been taken with regard to this.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know whether any Narrow Gauge line is due for conversion into Metre Gauge?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The same answer applies to this also.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know I whether the maintenance of the Nar-I row Gauge lines is keeping pace with

the increased traffic offering on these lines? If not, why not?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: There has been practically no increase in traffic. As a matter of fact, we have stock just enough to meet the requirements and we did not plan for any increase or additional trains in the Second Plan.

DELAY AND RESTRICTIONS FOR BOOKING OF E CLASS TRAFFIC TO SOUTH FROM BARODA AND RAJKOT DIVISIONS

*459. SHRI MAGANBHAI S. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the year 1960-61 booking of E Class traffic to South from Baroda and Rajkot Divisions was delayed for months together;

(b) whether it is a fact that there were frequent restrictions for booking of E class traffic to stations via Raichur, via Dohad and via Arkonam;

(c) whether it is a fact that Railway authorities do not make registration of wagons to show that there was less of booking; and

(d) whether similar complaints about delay in booking were received from the Central Railway also?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Booking was delayed for certain sections in the South, but not for months together;

(b) Restrictions were imposed occasionally via Raichur and via Arkonam. No restrictions were imposed via Dohad.

(c) No; registrations are free normally, except for quota limited destinations to which a limit is imposed equal to 20 times the quota, or 23 wagons per division, whichever is greater during the busy season,

(d) Yes.

*460. *The questioner (Shri D. B. Desai) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2895-96 infra.*

PUBLICATION OF 'RASHTRIYA PANCHANG'

*461. SHRI ABDUL RAHIM: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the "Rashtriya Panchang" is published annually by his Ministry;

(b) if so, since which year it is being published;

(c) how many copies of the 'Panchang' were printed and sold last year;

(d) whether it is a fact that due publicity is not given to the effect that such a 'Panchang' is being published by Government;

(e) what steps Government propose to take to make the 'Panchang' available in all parts of the country, and

(f) whether Government propose to consider the suggestions made by certain sections of the public that arrangements should be made to make it available at all the post offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AHMED MOHTUD-DIN): (a) Yes.

(b) Since 1879 Saka Era, corresponding to 1957-58.

(c) 17,600 copies were printed and about 8,480 copies were sold.

(d) No. Publicity is given by Issuing Press Notes. Copies are also supplied free to interested institutions, libraries, Information Centres, etc.

(e) The Panchangs are available for sale through the agents of the Manager of Publications and the various States Government Book Depots.

(f) No such suggestion has been made and in any case it is not a practicable one.

SHRI ABDUL RAHIM: May I know whether the large number of copies lying unsold in the lumber rooms could not be sold in the post offices like post cards?