

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY):

(a) Yes.

(b) No; though on account of the limited rolling stock and the transshipment capacity on the narrow gauge section from Muri to Ranchi and receipt of heavy traffic in construction materials, occasional delays have taken place. During the months of April, May and June, 1960 the average time taken both for wagon loads and "smalls" was less than one month.

(c) In order to reduce the transit time between Calcutta and Ranchi, traffic to Ranchi is now being cleared by the all broad gauge route by moving wagons by material trains from Muri to Ranchi.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PUNJAB FOR LEVELLING OPERATIONS

472. { SHRI PURNA CHANDRA
SHARMA:
MIRZA AHMED ALI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance given to the Government of Punjab in the years 1958-59 and 1959-60 for levelling operations for agricultural purposes; and

(b) whether the Central Government have any machinery to ensure that the money allotted by them to the State for this purpose is properly utilised?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) No assistance for levelling operations as such has been given. But six schemes of terracing and *wat bundi* on agricultural lands have been approved during 1958-59 and 1959-60 for which central subsidy at 12½ per cent. of the expenditure involved is admissible. The approved expenditure on these schemes is Rs. 80,000 in 1958-59 and Rs. 1,31,000 in 1959-60.

(b) The Central Government have no machinery for directly ensuring the proper utilisation of the financial assistance given by them but subsidies are adjusted by the Accountant General only after verification of the expenditure incurred.

HOLD UP OF TRAFFIC AT AMBALA CANTONMENT RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSING

473. SHRI BANSI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traffic is held up for hours together at the Ambala Cantonment Grand Trunk Road Railway Level Crossing; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that a Complaint Book is not maintained at this Railway Level Crossing; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Minister of the Government of Punjab was not given the Complaint Book on demand at the said Railway Crossing; if so, what was the reason; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Station Master, Ambala Cantonment, does not care for the complaints sent to him regarding mismanagement at the said Railway Level Crossing?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes. The matter has been taken up with the Gateman concerned.

(d) No, Sir.

OPENING OF A RAILWAY LINE IN DISTRICT OF CHHINDWARA

474. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARAMANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps which Government are taking for the opening of a Railway line in the district of Chhindwara for further exploitation of coal in the areas for