

been put up, and also whether the matter was taken up with the Finance Ministry or other Ministries for some kind of assistance over and above what the Railway Ministry could itself do?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Well, the State Governments had sent the lists of lines they required in their various States and they had been examined on merits. And if they are not included in successive Plans, it does not mean that they are not justified on their own merits. It all depends upon the resources and many which are justified even on merits are not included because the resources are not sufficient to provide for all those lines. This is known to them and so it is not necessary to communicate this to the States.

FREE TRADE ZONE FOR KANDLA PORT

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have circulated a tentative scheme about Free Trade Zone for Kandla Port among the Chambers of Commerce and industrial and trade interests for eliciting their opinion;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any comments from these organizations; and

(c) whether Government propose to make any changes in the scheme and if so, what are those changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE, IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS: **SHRI RAJ**

BAHADUR: (a) Yes, Sir, I know. (b) Comments and suggestions have been received from some individuals and commercial and trade interests.

(c) After considering the comments and suggestions received, Government will take a decision on the proposal to

set up a free trade zone at Kandla and, on the changes, if any, necessary in the tentative scheme.

SHRI M. M. MEHTA: May I know, Sir, when this scheme will be implemented?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: As I have just now said, 31st July, was the last date for sending comments and suggestions. We have received about 130 suggestions and certain suggestions are still coming in from Chambers of Commerce and other interests concerned. We hope to analyse the whole body of the suggestions made to us, come to certain conclusions, discuss them with the Ministry of Industry and then put up the scheme to the Cabinet.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Has it come to the notice of Government that the area proposed to be reserved for the free trade zone at Kandla and the provision of other facilities there are less than adequate? If so, what are the Government doing for making the Port and the free trade zone more inviting?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We have received suggestions from various quarters that the terms and conditions that had been advertised in the first tentative scheme should be liberalised. Particular reference had been made to the area proposed to be included for the free trade zone and it had been suggested that it should be increased.

(a) whether the Government of **SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN:** May I know, Sir, why this Kandla Port is being declared a free trade zone? What are the reasons for it?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, it is with a view to helping the development of industries and thereby the promotion of exports, and also providing employment opportunities for the people of the area.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, what particular facilities will be given to the businessmen, industrialists and others if it is declared a free trade zone?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That has been given in the first tentative scheme that had been published.

SHRI M. M. MEHTA: May I know, Sir, how many applications up to this time have been received offering to instal industries over there?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: That will arise in the second stage. The first stage was about suggestions and comments and we are now at that stage. And as soon as we give out the particulars of the scheme that is finally adopted, we shall be having these applications for consideration.

SHRI M. M. MEHTA: I would like to know what facilities have been provided for water and electric supply to the industries there?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Adequate facilities for water and power are a *sine qua non* for the establishment of industries in that free trade zone.

RAIL LINK BETWEEN EAST AND WEST PAKISTAN THROUGH INDIAN TERRITORY

*69. **SHRI J. H. JOSHI:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the statement made by the Deputy Minister of Railways in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th April, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan have forwarded any proposal to the Government of India to have a rail link between East and West Pakistan through the Indian territory; and

(b) if so, how the matter stands at present?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government of

Pakistan made a proposal for the grant of transit facilities for the movement of civilian traffic from one part of their country to the other part through India.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Governments of India and Pakistan.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: May I know, Sir, how many railway coaches and wagons belonging to the Indian Railways are running in Pakistan territory and how many of them due to be returned to India are not yet returned?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I shall require separate notice for that. But some of our wagons go to Pakistan and some Pakistan Wagons come to India but they go back in the normal course.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVARGIYA: In view of the very long distance between East Pakistan and West Pakistan, is it reasonable to give any such facility to Pakistan, namely to pass all their trains from East Pakistan to West Pakistan?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is a matter of opinion.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: May I know, Sir, whether this request for transit facilities is on the lines of the corridor that was demanded by the Muslim League some twelve years back?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: No, Sir; it is nothing of the sort. It is asking for facilities for Pakistan nationals to travel from east to west and from west to east.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if in this connection the proposal for linking up the northern part of Bengal with Calcutta (Sealdah) through the East Pakistan territory was also considered?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: All these matters are still under consideration.