

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: I want to know the specific length required for the Comet plane.

SHRI S. K. PATIL: A Comet can land even on the ordinary Dakota runway. Normally, the longest runway that we require for a Comet is somewhere about 10,000 ft.

**RAIL-LINK BETWEEN BARSOT AND
SILIGURI OF THE NORTH EAST FRONTIER
RAILWAY**

*396. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction work of a duplicate new rail-link from Barsoi to Siliguri of the North-East Frontier Railway would be taken up shortly; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of the scheme that would be undertaken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Certain investigations have been undertaken for developing the line capacity between Barsoi and Siliguri for the movement of oil traffic over the Assam Rail Link.

(b) The Scheme will be finalised on the completion of the field investigations referred to in part (a) above.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, whether it is going to be a metre-gauge or a broad-gauge line?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Sir, these investigations have been undertaken for a broad-gauge line.

SHRI S. C. DEB: What would be its total length?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: That all depends upon its final location and survey.

**SENDING OF RICE FROM BIHAR TO WEST
BENGAL**

*397. SHRI T. BODRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nine hundred tons of rice is going to be sent to West Bengal from the District of Ranchi in Bihar; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the circumstances under which rice is being sent to West Bengal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) and (b). 809 tons of rice have been moved from Central Government Storage Depot at Ranchi to West Bengal for the purpose of turning over of stocks.

SHRI T. BODRA: In view of the fact that there is shortage of foodgrains in the district of Ranchi, may I know why the Central Government is moving foodgrains from there to other places, especially when certain starvation deaths of the tribal people have been reported from there?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, the requirements of Bihar for the months of August, September and October have been calculated and certain figures have been arrived at. The State Government stocks can cover more than the quantities thus estimated. So, there was no necessity of keeping so much quantity in the Central Storage Depot there. About 22,000 tons of rice were brought from the South to the Central Government godowns in Bihar. It was not originally meant for consumption in Bihar, it was for storage purposes mainly. And we are moving quantities according to the requirements of other areas.

SHRI T. BODRA: Sir, in view of the food shortage there itself, may I know the reasons for moving this.

rice from the Central godowns in Ranchi district alone to West Bengal, and not those in Patna District or in Monghyr District?

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SHRI A. M. THOMAS: From other districts also, Sir, quantities are being moved. We have moved, till 15th August, 1959, a quantity of 8,304 tons. Again we are going to move another 13,500 tons from the Bihar Central Depot. The State Government has got a stock of rice and wheat together, to the extent of about 69,000 tons. So, the requirements of Bihar can be met from the State Government's godowns themselves.

**RAILWAY EMBANKMENT ON KOTAH-BLNA
LINE OF THE WESTERN RAILWAY**

*398. SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAI-VARGIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on the Kotah-Bina line of the Western Railway the railway embankment between Darnoda and Rothai station is not in a satisfactory condition;

(b) whether it is a fact that near mile No. 695 within the embankment sleepers' cribs have been placed due to which sometimes during rains the line sinks down, and whether such sinking actually took place on the 1st August, 1959; and

(c) whether Government propose to remove the sleepers' cribs and make a permanent strong bank there?

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

(b) For the expeditious restoration of the railway line after the breaches which occurred during the 1958 monsoons, some sleeper cribs had to be provided. There has, however, been no sinking of the railway line due to the cribs and there was no such sinking on 1st August, 1959.

(c) Yes, Sir.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA: Sir, is the Government putting up a diversion line permanently there?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: We are slowly removing these sleeper cribs. During the monsoons breaches were reported at four places, totalling about two miles, and therefore some sleeper cribs had to be provided. We are now trying to remove those cribs.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA: Is the Government removing these cribs or . . .

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Sir, the plan is to remove them gradually. Some cribs have since been removed and some others are being removed. And it is proposed to remove all the sleeper cribs and make a permanent bank soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh! Mr. Thomas has left. It is a question which Mr. Thomas has to answer.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is strange.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is. Mr. Patil

SHRI S. K. PATIL: Sir, probably Mr. Thomas thought that questions were over. And there was some adjournment motion in the other House.

FOOD SITUATION IN TRIPURA

*361. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (On behalf of SHRI M. BASAVAPUNNAIAH) : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any reports of starvation deaths from Tripura;

(b) whether Government have received any representations from a Member of Parliament from Tripura regarding the critical food situation in Tripura; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the food situation there?