

(b) if so, the mileage of this railway line and the progress so far made in its construction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b). A proposal for the survey of a 250 mile line from Bailadilla to Kottavalasa is under consideration.

ROAD DEVELOPMENT IN THE HILL DISTRICTS OF ASSAM

206. SHRI J. B. HAGJER: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether technical sanctions have been given to all the schemes of road development in the Hill Districts of Assam under article 275 of the Constitution; and

(b) if not, what are the schemes to which (i) technical sanctions have been given; and (ii) technical sanctions have not been given and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (b). Technical approval and financial sanctions have been given to 82 estimates relating to 16 schemes in the Priority I and Priority II Programmes of road development in the Hill Districts of Assam under article 275 of the Constitution. A statement showing the sanctioned works is attached. [See Appendix XXIII, Annexure No. 37.]

In accordance with the revised procedure for release of Central assistance to States, which came into existence from May 1958, the State Government is itself competent to accord technical approval and financial sanction to works which will not cost more than Rs. 25 lakhs during the Second Plan period or over Rs. 10

lakhs each during one year. We are not, therefore, aware as to how many schemes still remain to be sanctioned by the State Government.

Under the revised procedure the Ministry of Transport and Communications are likely to be concerned with six schemes, and the position of estimates relating thereto is shown in Statement II. [See Appendix XXIII, Annexure No. 38.]

CATERING, VENDING AND RESTAURANT CONTRACTORS

207. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many catering, vending and restaurant contractors hold contracts at more than two railway stations on the Indian Railways and what are the names of the railway stations where they hold the contracts and what is their usual place of residence;

(b) how often they reside in the place of contract; and

(c) how many of the existing contracts, though in different names, are held by the same persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) A statement is attached. [See Appendix XXIII, Annexure No. 39.]

(b) This information is not available.

(c) None as far as is known to the Government.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST DEPARTMENTAL CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

208. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many complaints have been recorded in the complaint books against (i) departmental catering establishments at Delhi, Howrah,