

(b) whether the possible occurrence of such bump was earlier notified to the pilot of the plane; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) No such incident has been reported about any of the aircraft operating the Night Airmail Service on the night of May 22-23, 1957.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

PROGRESS IN CONSTRUCTION OF KOSI PROJECT

♦54.. SHRI J. H. JOSHI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the construction of the Kosi Project; and

(b) how far the construction of this Project has succeeded in averting the loss of life and damage to property usually caused by heavy floods?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. K. PATIL): (a) and (b). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The progress made so far in the construction of the Kosi project is indicated below:—

(1) *Barrage and Afflux Bund works.*—For the construction of the barrage and afflux bund, it was essential to construct—

(i) a pucca access road for a length of 26 miles from Bathnaha to Bhimnagar,

(ii) a narrow gauge Railway line from Bathnaha to Bhimnagar and Bhimnagar to Chatra and Dharan for a length of about 78 miles and to procure 100 Nos. of wagons and 20 Nos. of locomotives, and

(iii) staff colony of 44 quarters for gazetted officers, 362 for non-gazetted staff, 454 quarters for Class IV and work-charged staff besides buildings for office accommodation and subsidiary buildings for hospital, schools, etc.

Progress of works in respect of the access road is 90 per cent., of the railway line 60 per cent., and of the colony 60 per cent.

The Barrage consists of—

(i) eastern and western afflux bunds for a length of about 8 miles each, and

(ii) eastern and western earthen dams for a length of 12,000 ft, each,

(iii) concrete spillway structure for a length of 4,637 ft.

Progress of works on the eastern afflux bund is 92 per cent. Work on the western afflux bund has not been taken up so far as it is desirable to take it up along with the main dam. Work on the eastern earthen dam has just been started. Work on the concrete spillway portion is expected to be taken up during the next working season, if the railway line up to Chatra and Dharan is completed and the required materials and machinery procured by that time.

(2) *Embankments.*—About 82 per cent of earthwork involved in the eastern and western embankments has been done in a length of 135 miles out of 150 miles.

Out of the 27 sluices on the western embankment and 6 sluices on the eastern embankment, 18 sluices on the western embankment have been completed in all respects and 90 per cent of the work on the remaining 9 sluices has been done. Materials required for the construction of sluices on the eastern embankment have been collected and work will be taken up during the next working season.

About 85 per cent of staff quarters and inspection bungalows in connection with the embankment works has been completed.

(3) Canals.—The investigation of the alignment of the main canal is complete and construction for a length of 10 miles in the 3rd and 4th reaches has been taken up. Investigations in respect of branch canals and distributaries are in progress,

(b) The embankments constructed so far have given protection to the following areas:

—
The entire Purnea district;
Seven-eighths of Saharsa district; and
Three-fourths of the Kosi affected areas in Darbhanga district.

DAK-TAR JOURNAL

•58. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present circulation of the monthly journal "Dak-Tar"; and

(b) what is the monthly expenditure incurred on and income derived from this journal, and whether it is proposed to publish this journal in any script or language other than Hindi and English?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Average monthly circulation is 981.

(b) Expenditure—Rs. 2,979 p.m.;
Income—Rs. 693 p.m.

It is not proposed to publish this journal in any script or language other than Hindi and English.

THREAT OF STRIKE BY THE ALL-INDIA RAILWAY MINISTERIAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

•59. SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

<a) whether it is a fact that the All-India Railway Ministerial Staff Association have threatened that its members will go on total strike; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, from which date they propose to go on strike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). No intimation to this effect has been received from the Association which is not a recognised one.

SHORT RECOVERY OF SUGAR IN BIHAR

*60. SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar industry in Bihar is facing a grave situation due to less recovery of sugar in the 1956-57 season; and

(b) how many maunds of sugar were lost as a result of the short recovery?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) No. The average recovery of sugar obtained in Bihar in 1956-57 season was 9.37 per cent, as against 9.76 per cent, last year. Slight fall or rise in recovery is unavoidable due to the effect of natural factors like droughts and floods, damage to crop by pests and diseases, etc.

(b) On the basis of last year's recovery, the loss of sugar this year will work out to about 3.56 lakh maunds or 13,000 tons.

DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION— POWER SUPPLY AT GAYA

•61.. SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power supply from the Damodar Valley Corporation was made available at Gaya on the 30th June, 1957;

(b) whether it is a fact that a limited amount of power was being received from Bokaro Thermal