

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it a fact that the congestion in the Calcutta Port is to be relieved by the development of this port?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I am not able to say how far the congestion will be relieved but an Officer on Special Duty who is attached to our Ministry recently visited this port and made certain suggestions. He has opined that this can be developed as a minor port in the first instance for dealing with ore traffic and, by the end of the second Five Year Plan, he envisages that as much as five lakhs of tons of ore can be transported from this port.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: In that case, what is the proposal that the Railway Ministry has for connecting this port with the hinterland, particularly those areas which supply iron ore for export?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The railways do not come into the picture. As soon as the Hirakud Dam is completed, there will be more regular flow of water in the river and ore will be carried by river transport up to the mouth of the river and then later on by ship.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: What other major ports are under contemplation now?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No other major port is contemplated to be built now.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: I would like to know whether there has not been any recommendation by the Karturbhai Lalbhai Committee that Malpe should be converted into a major port.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Certain experiments with regard to both Malpe and Mangalore are being conducted and we are awaiting the results of those experiments.

NEW BUILDING OF THE NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION

♦166. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) who prepared the design for the new building of the New Delhi Railway Station; and

(b) what has been the actual cost of construction of the Station?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The Architect of the Ministry of Railways prepared the design for the new station building of New Delhi.

(b) Rs. 19,95,000 approximately.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What was the original amount sanctioned for the construction of this station? Is it true that this particular station was to be constructed at a cost of about fifty lakhs of rupees?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The intention originally was to have a bigger building which was estimated to cost about thirty-six lakhs of rupees. That was given up and the present building was taken up.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

*148. SHRI W. C. DASAPPA (ON BEHALF OF SHRI M. VALIULLA) : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway person-
nel held responsible for railway
accidents in each year from 1950-51
onwards; and

(b) the steps so far taken to improve the efficiency of the railway staff in order to minimise the occurrence of accidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.