

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact that some Committee went into this question and submitted certain recommendations? Can the hon Minister enlighten us as to how far the recommendations of that Committee have been implemented or what progress has been made in this matter till now?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I cannot say anything at present.

REDUCING THE STEEP GRADIENT OF THE RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN MAL JUNCTION AND MADARIHAT

*313. SHRI R. THANHLIRA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government propose to reduce the steep gradient of the railway line between Mal Junction and Madarihat Station on the North Eastern Railway?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR): The work of easing the ruling gradient on a part of the section has already been completed.

LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

*292. SHRI M. VALIULLA (ON BEHALF OF MOULANA M. FARUQI): Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the subjects discussed at the Labour Ministers' Conference held in the beginning of November, 1955; and

(b) the decisions arrived at thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix XI, Annexure No. 63.]

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Several suggestions have been made regarding labour in the course of the discussions at this Conference. Can the Minister say whether they have drawn up any

plan and submitted to the Planning Commission?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes. Besides these suggestions, we had also plenty of data and all that has been put together with our notes to the Planning Commission.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Regarding item 2—transfer of employment exchanges to the State Governments, what will happen to the employees of the Central Government? Will they be absorbed and are they protected completely?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes. All the employees will remain and also the emoluments which they will be getting on the day of transfer will be guaranteed.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Regarding item 3 regarding medical benefits to families, may I know as to what steps have been taken by the Government in this matter?

SHRI ABID ALI: There is some difficulty about finance. When the finance will be available, this question will be taken up.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Regarding item 4—consideration of principles for the fixation of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, are Government taking any steps to bring in amendments to give effect to this resolution?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes. I hope during the next session of the Parliament the amending Bill will be introduced.

EFFECT OF FLOODS ON FOOD POSITION

*293. SHRI VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the effect of the damage to food crops in the floods this year on the food position in the country?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): It is yet too early to say whether there