

detailed statement regarding the shortage in Delhi?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** I can supply the information to the hon. Member.

**SHRI B. GUPTA:** In view of the shortage of quarters for the lower staff may I know why big palatial buildings with lawns attached to them are being provided to the high railway officials in Calcutta?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** Lawns?

**SHRI B. C. GHOSE:** Although we are aware that houses are being built I should like to know, in pursuance of the general policy enunciated by the Government, if the hon. Minister could indicate the time by which the requirements of these people at Howrah could be expected to be met?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** That information also relating to the position at Howrah, I can supply to the hon. Member.

#### INTEGRATION OF BARASAT-BASIRHAT LIGHT RAILWAY WITH THE EASTERN RAILWAY

\*431. **SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY:** Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to integrate the Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway with the Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) whether Government have received any representation in this connection?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes.

**SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY:** Is it not a fact that since 1951 this particular Railway is being managed by Martin, Burn & Company, and the Central Government is paying some money for it?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** It is true that both the Central Government and the Government of West Bengal have each advanced this Company a loan of Rs. 3 lakhs.

**SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY:** Is it not a fact that the management is most unsatisfactory and is it not a fact that the West Bengal Government has recommended to the Central Government to take over its administration as early as possible?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** In fact it is on the recommendation of the West Bengal Government—the Chief Minister of West Bengal went into the affairs of this Company and constituted this new Board of Directors—that the Central Government and the West Bengal Government have granted this loan.

**SHRI B. C. GHOSE:** The question was whether the West Bengal Government has not made a recommendation that this should be taken over by the Central Government?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** It is true that they desire that the Railway Ministry should construct a broad-gauge line from Barasat to Basirhat. We are examining the proposal. It is a small branch line and we do not know whether it will be economical.

**SHRI B. C. GHOSE:** Will the hon. Minister indicate, in view of the representations received from the interests concerned in the matter and also in view of the recommendations of the West Bengal Government, as to what has been standing in the way of their taking over this Railway?

**SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:** If we construct the line, the chances of recovering the loan will recede. That is one of the things that we have asked the West Bengal Government to examine.

**SHRI B. C. GHOSE:** If the Central Government do not take over this Railway will they be able to realise

this loan from the Company whose financial condition does not appear to be satisfactory?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: We cannot be taking over all the Railways.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: That I know; that is a different question. I should like to know the reasons—if that is not the only one—that have stood in the way of this Railway being taken over in spite of the recommendation of the West Bengal Government.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is, of course, true that the West Bengal Government desires that we should construct a broad-gauge line but I do not know whether they have recommended that we should take over this particular Railway as such, because it will be very uneconomical to take over these small narrow gauge lines which are not at all paying and which are in a very bad way.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: May I point out that the answer is unsatisfactory to this extent that the hon. Minister is not aware of the recommendations of the West Bengal Government? If the West Bengal Government has not recommended that this should be taken over, he should say so, and if they have recommended I should like to know why it is not being done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: His point is that the West Bengal Government have made a recommendation that a broad-gauge line should be constructed there. Till that is constructed the present Railway will have to work under the Directorate which has been set up.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: That was not his answer, Sir, His answer was that he was not aware whether the West Bengal Government have recommended that it should be taken over.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: In fact the Chief Minister of West Bengal has been discussing this question with the Railway Board and various suggestions have been put forward. The whole thing is under examination.

9 C.S.D.

SHRI B. C. GHOSH: Is the hon. Minister aware that this matter has been hanging fire over two or three years now and the West Bengal Government had assured that they had recommended that this Railway should be taken over by the Centre and that the matter was under negotiation? We should like to know at what stage this negotiation stands today.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I should like to inform the hon. Member and the House that the Chief Minister and the West Bengal Government also appreciate the difficulties that we have put to them.

#### CENSUS OF LAND HOLDINGS

\*432. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for FOOD and AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the census of land holdings as recommended by the Planning Commission was completed during the year 1953;

(b) if not, what is the cause of the delay; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government will lay a copy of the census report on the Table of the Council?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) No.

(b) The State Governments were addressed on the subject and their comments have been invited. The matter will be finalized on receipt of comments from the State Governments which are still awaited.

(c) Does not arise.

9 A.M.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: When was this matter referred to the State Governments?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: On the 8th January 1954.