

the old Siliguri Station on the North Eastern Railway and that on the road to Matigara near Siliguri Junction are kept closed for hours at a stretch causing a jam in the road traffic; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the attention of Government has been drawn to this cause of public inconvenience and some concrete suggestions have also been offered for the removal thereof by the Siliguri Municipality?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No. The information available with the Government indicates that the average detention to road traffic at the level crossings for some time past has been under 10 minutes and not hours at a stretch as stated in the question.

(b) Yes. A representation from Shri Prodyut Kumar Basu, a Municipal Commissioner, to the Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling, was received by the North Eastern Railway Administration. The provision of an over-bridge and the diversion of the Assam Access Road, which will obviate the passage of the road traffic over the level crossing on the road to Matigara has been approved of.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Are any steps being taken for that?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes. I said that sanction has been given for the construction of an over-bridge.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it for an over-bridge or an overhead-bridge?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I do not understand the difference that the hon. Member makes between an over-bridge and an overhead-bridge.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: An over-bridge is a bridge over which men alone can pass. An overhead-bridge is one over which men as well as vehicular traffic can pass.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is for vehicular traffic.

#### MINISTERIAL STAFF ON THE NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

\*95. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the ministerial staff on the North Eastern Railway is treated as "non-essential staff"; if so, why?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): The classification of "essential" or "non-essential" has reference only to priority for allotment of Railway quarters. Ministerial staff on Railways are classified as non-essential for this purpose since they are not required to come on duty in emergencies or at odd hours of the day or night.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not precisely for this reason that the ministerial staff are suffering from many inconveniences?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, it is only for purposes of residential accommodation that the staff is classified as essential and non-essential. The ministerial staff have not to work at odd hours and they do not have to report for duty in emergencies or at odd hours by day or night. They are also provided with quarters in certain places like Calcutta and Asansol.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether quarters are provided for them in Katihar?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I should like to have notice.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: What is the difference in the service conditions between essential and non-essential staff?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Essential staff are people like drivers, guards, station masters, etc. who have to report for duty at odd hours and in cases of emergency, and so they have to be

provided with residences near their place of duty.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I wanted to know whether there is any difference in the terms and conditions of service between essential and non-essential staff.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think that is a larger question and does not arise out of this restricted question.

SHRI K. L. NARASIMHAM: May I know whether all the essential staff have been provided with quarters?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir. We have not been able to provide quarters for all the essential staff, but we are progressing in that direction.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are Members of Parliament essential?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: They are very essential, Sir.

TRAINING OF VILLAGE LEVEL WORKERS AND  
SUPERVISORY STAFF FROM THE FUNDS PROVIDED  
BY THE FORD FOUNDATION

\*96. SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any training centre for the training of village level workers and supervisory staff in Orissa, for which funds have been allotted by the Ford Foundation; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the number of persons who have so far been trained?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE  
(DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) Yes.

(b) One hundred and twenty-eight persons have already been trained. Seventy-two are under training.

SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: May I know how much this has cost?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: The total cost that will be incurred is Rs. 6.39 lakhs. It is shared among four agen-

cies, the T.C.A., the Government of India, the Ford Foundation and the Government of Orissa. The actual figure that has been spent so far I am not in a position to give, but for the first two years the expenditure is going to be met entirely by the Ford Foundation.

SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: May I know where these trainees are going to be posted?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: In the various Community Projects and the National Extension Service Blocks.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know how these trainees are selected?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: They are selected by the State Governments.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Is there any committee to select them or the State Governments themselves do it?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I could not give details of what arrangements there are for their selection.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know whether all the trainees have been employed?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I think so.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Is it a fact that most of the trainees are Congress workers?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We make no distinction in their selection.

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI  
(addressing Shri Dwivedy): I would like to know that.

PRICE OF SUGAR

\*97. SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average price of sugar prevailing last year at the time when Government reduced the price of sugarcane from Rs. 1/12/- to Rs. 1/3/- per maund;