

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Does not a barrier mean that people cannot cross? May I know what is meant by "barrier"?

MR. CHAIRMAN: To prevent them from getting into risky places.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Without crossing the lines one cannot go anywhere. Will the hon. Minister take this information from me and kindly do the needful?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I have told the House that the deputationists who came in this connection were satisfied as to the priority of amenities that should be provided in that station.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: It is a question of the safety of the public also.

TRANSPORT OF GOODS TO AND FROM ASSAM

*167. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

fa) the quantity of goods transported every year to and from Assam by railway and also by steamer separately since 15th August 1947; and

(b) what steps are being taken to improve the railway link for increasing its carrying capacity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The information that is readily available, viz, for the years 1950-51 and 1951-52, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 59.]

(b) The capacity of the Link Route is being progressively improved by providing additional crossing stations, increasing the lengths of loops, easing the gradients, improving the standards of signalling and interlocking, etc.

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Sir, from the statement it is clear that we import more by steamer than by rail-

route. I want to know whether the steamer freights are higher than the railway freights.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I require notice.

TRANSPORT OF TEA

•168. SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any facility for the transport of tea from Dhekiajuli Road Station on the North Eastern Railway; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to take any steps to provide for such facility?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) Yes. Wagons are supplied for the transport of traffic in tea from Dhekiajuli Road Station.

(b) Does not arise.

(Question No. 169 was put later.)

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE AT PATNA SITE

•170. DR. P. C. MITRA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for the construction of a bridge at Patna site for connecting North Bihar with South Bihar, has been abandoned; if so, why; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the negative, what steps have so far been taken by Government to give effect to the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Yes, The Ganga Bridge • Committee which was appointed under the Chairmanship of Sir M. Visvesva-rama to suggest the most suitable site for the bridge across Ganga recommended the construction of the bridge at Mokameh site in preference to Patna site

(b) Does not arise.