

### SALE OF LOCOMOTIVES

139 SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state—

(a) the number of railway engines which have been sold off by the Railways during the last four years;

(b) the date on which and the price at which each type of engine—broad gauge, metre gauge or narrow gauge was sold, and

(c) the name of the buyer in each transaction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O V ALAGESAN). (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

### BRIDGE CONSTRUCTED OVER THE MAHANADI RIVER

140. SHRI B. RATH: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bridge constructed over the river Mahanadi at Sambhalpur was intended to be used as railway bridge, if and when the Sambhalpur-Kantabanjli railway line was to be constructed;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have ever been requested to meet part of the expenditure incurred on the construction of the bridge; and

(c) if so, what amount was asked for and whether the demand has been accepted by them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O V ALAGESAN) (a) Yes

(b) and (c) The Hirakud dam project have constructed piers long enough to carry road and rail decking on separate girders alongside each other. The road bridge has been constructed but the Railway girders will be erected if and when a railway line from Sambhalpur to

Kantabanjli or Titilagarh is sanctioned. The extra cost of the piers has been met by the Hirakud dam project in the first instance and it will become debitable to the Railway if a railway line is constructed.

### FAMILY PLANNING

141 SHRI B V. KAKKILAYA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the maternity leave and benefit facilities to industrial workers are being curtailed in some States in order to encourage family planning;

(b) whether any State Governments have consulted the Government of India in this connection;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, which are the States and what are their proposals; and

(d) what advice, if any, has been given by the Government of India to each such State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) (a) and (b). No

(c) and (d) Do not arise

### AEROPLANE ACCIDENTS

142. DR. S. K. BHUYAN: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the total number of aeroplane accidents which occurred in Assam during the period from the 1st January 1950, till the end of April 1953 with details of each such accident under the following heads:—

(i) date of occurrence;

(ii) the air company to which the plane belonged;

(iii) the type of plane, Dakota, or Viking, etc.;

(iv) whether the plane carried passengers or goods;

(v) the loss of life involved in the accident, and

(vi) the cause of the accident?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): I lay on the Table of the Council two statements showing accidents to aircraft belonging to (i) Air Line Companies, and (ii) private owners, giving the required information. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 201].

RETRENCHMENT IN ORDNANCE  
WORKS—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

SHRI S. N. MUZUMDAR (West Bengal): Sir, I have a submission to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is that?

SHRI S. N. MUZUMDAR: The other day I made a submission that I had sent a short notice question to the Defence Ministry in connection with the proposed retrenchment in some ordnance works. I was informed that the Defence Ministry declined to answer that short notice question. The proposed retrenchment is to take place on 15th May next. When this matter was placed before the Chair, the Chair kindly consented to look into the matter. Now I have been informed that nearly 30,000 employees have served strike notice and it will be very unfortunate if the Defence Ministry refuses to throw light on this matter. May I request the particular Ministry to throw some light on this matter tomorrow?

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: The Ministry declined to answer the short notice question?

SHRI S. N. MUZUMDAR: Yes.

QUESTION re. HATHI GOLD MINES

DR. R. B. GOUR (Hyderabad): During the winter session of Parliament last year, Sir, I had put a number of questions on the Hathi Gold Mines and the Deputy Labour Minister told us that information was being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House after

it had been collected, and as soon as it was with the Labour Ministry. It is however, unfortunate that though so many months have since elapsed this information has not yet been made available either to the House or to me personally.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY (Mysore): That is quite true, Sir. I am sorry to say the Ministers give so many promises on the floor of the House and these promises are not kept except in a very few instances.

THE MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA): We always look after the assurances given by the hon. Ministers.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: May I quote instances just now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't bother about it now.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA: We are laying all those statements on the Table of the House.

SHRI B. GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, this term "as soon as possible" should be defined, for it seems to be a very elastic term so far as the Ministers are concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr. Deshmukh to lay the papers on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS, COMMERCIAL APPENDIX AND AUDIT REPORT OF DEFENCE SERVICES 1952.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers as required by clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution:—

- (i) Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 1950-51. [Placed in Library. See No. IV O.I. (94).]