

SUM V. K. DHAGE: The other point that arises is

(Shri B. C. Ghose also stood up.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: One at a time.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: I asked the question about the general proposition as to what is the policy of the Railways wherever the road mileage is much shorter than the railway mileage and if such difficulties should arise whether any restrictions placed on railway mileage should not be removed?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I may tell the House, Sir, that this rule of 75 miles or even more is not very strictly adhered to. In several States this limit has been exceeded. That is why I said we can get the information from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and place it before the House.

CONNECTING OF BASTAR AND SURGUJA STATES' HEADQUARTERS WITH EXISTING RAIL-HEADS

*438. PANDIT S. DUBE: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government contemplate the opening up of the area of the merged States in the Eastern and Southern Madhya Pradesh by connecting the headquarters of Bastar and Surguja States with the existing railheads? '

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): The reply is in the negative.

SURVEY FOR CONNECTING NAGPUR TO JUBBULPORE AND BASTAR TO RAIPUR BY RAIL

*439. PANDIT S. DUBE: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether surveys have been made for connecting Nagpur directly to Jubbulpore and Bastar to Raipur by rail; and

(b) if so, what further steps are being taken for the completion of the projects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No survey has been made for providing a direct rail connection between Nagpur and Jubbulpore

MR. CHAIRMAN: Again comes up!

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: A Traffic Survey for a rail connection between Raipur and Jeypore *via* Bastar and Jagdalpur was, however, carried out by the E.x-B.N. Railway in 1945,-46.

(b) These projects will have to await consideration till others which have been accorded higher priority have been dealt with.

PANDIT S. DUBE: Is it a fact that in the Centenary Exhibition there is a notice put up that a survey between Jubbulpore and Nagpur has been made?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I did not follow the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Notice has been put that a survey has been made between these two stations.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I said, Sir, that a traffic survey for a rail connection between Raipur and Jeypore *via* Bastar and Jagdalpur was, however, carried out by the E.x-B.N. Railway in 1945-46: that formed part of the answer.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: He wanted to know between Jubbulpore and Nagpur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a specific question.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: No, Sir.

OFFICER TO ENQUIRE INTO THE CONDITION OF COUNTRY CRAFTS INDUSTRY

*440. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state: