

(2) on the National Highway No. 31 thirteen breaches of bank and bridge approaches occurred and 13 culverts and bridges including two spans of one long bridge have collapsed in the section from Siliguri to Jogigopa on the Brahmaputra.

(b) Tea from all tea gardens served by stations in the Terrai area and in the Dooars area on the Mal-Chengmari and Mal-Changrabandha sections can move by the all-rail route. There is, however, at present, no outlet for produce of the tea gardens served by stations between Chengmari and Alipur Dooar. An offer has been made to the Central Tea Board that if tea is air-lifted from these areas to Bagdogra, arrangements will be made by the Railway to book the same from there. Movement of jute from North Bihar and Haldibari area has not been affected.

Necessary staff and materials have been concentrated in the areas damaged and extensive organisation for rapid repairs to the railways based on previous experience has been strained to the limit.

State Governments who look after National Highways on behalf of the Centre, have already commenced the repairs wherever water has subsided to allow the work being done. They have been informed by the Centre that they should go ahead with the work in anticipation of grant of additional funds.

(c) No.

SHRI S. P. RAY : May I know when the restoration of these lines will be made?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : Do you mean the railway lines?

SHRI S. P. RAY : Yes.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : We have already repaired and restored some of the lines but the whole work and especially the major railway line which has been damaged will take about a month to complete.

PROF. G. RANGA : In view of the fact that this is the third time when such major damages have been caused by the floods and also in view of the fact that plans and estimates are already prepared and the engineers are expected to anticipate these things, would Government think of instituting a detailed enquiry into the manner in which this alignment has been made and find out whether they can possibly improve the alignment and also the bridges and other conveniences which they have to provide there in order to minimise future damages?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : So far as we are aware, these damages are not due to wrong alignment. There is a misapprehension that the new road that we built has been damaged or the new railway link that we built has been damaged. The fact is that the old road and the old railway lines have been damaged and the new railway link or the new road has not been damaged. Only minor damages have taken place.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Has the Government estimated, Sir, the damage done to road and rail?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR : No. We have no idea.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

WORK-CHARGED ESTABLISHMENT AT COCHIN

89. SHRI M. MANJURAN : Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been representations for changing the work-charged establishment at the port of Cochin into a permanent one ;

(b) what action Government have taken on such representations ;

(c) what additional annual expenditure will be involved in changing the work-charged into a permanent establishment ; and

(d) whether there is a work-charged establishment at any major port?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI LAL BAHADUR) : (a) Yes.

(b) Government have decided that 80 per cent. of the 582 posts treated until recently as work-charged establishment but which are actually required for the normal operation of the port of Cochin should be made permanent and treated as regular establishment. The staff recruited and employed for the execution of specific works will, however, continue to be borne on the work-charged establishment.

(c) With this decision the staff have become entitled to the privileges of leave, travelling allowance, medical attendance etc. applicable to permanent Government servants. It is regretted that the exact financial implication cannot be estimated with any accuracy, as it depends on several uncertain factors.

(d) Yes ; all major ports have got work-charged establishments.

8.30 a.m.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE PREVENTIVE DETENTION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will proceed to the next item. The Minister for Home Affairs.

THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI) : Sir, with your permission I would like to move the motion which stands in the name of the hon. the Home Minister. The position is, Sir, that I propose to move this motion in a somewhat amended form. The motion as amended will read :

That this Council concurs in the recommendation of the House of the People that the Council do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill further to amend the

Preventive Detention Act, 1950, and resolves that the following Members of the Council of States be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee :

- (1) Diwan Chaman Lall.
- (2) Pandit Sitacharan Dube.
- (3) Shri R. C. Gupta.
- (4) Shri Bhalchandra Maheshwar Gupte.
- (5) Shri K. S. Hegde.
- (6) Shri Jai Sukh Lal Hathi.
- (7) Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru.
- (8) Shri P. S. Rajagopal Naidu.
- (9) Shri K. P. Madhavan Nair.
- (10) Acharya Narendra Deva.
- (11) Shri Osman Sobhani.
- (12) Shri P. Sundarayya.

Sir, very little is required of me by way of explaining the object of this motion. Yesterday the House of the People passed unanimously the motion for the appointment of a Joint Select Committee consisting of Members of both Houses for the purpose of examining the Bill further to amend the Preventive Detention Act of 1950. They appointed Members of the House of the People to that Select Committee and they sent a request to this House to send twelve representatives of this House to participate in the work of that Joint Select Committee. The operative part of the motion that was passed in the House of the People, so far as we are concerned, is :

"That this House recommends to the Council that the Council do join in the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of Members to be appointed by the Council to the Joint Committee."

Now this Joint Committee has got to sit at once and to make a report by the 29th of this month. That explains the expedition with which the passing of that motion was communicated to this House and as it was considered to be merely a formal matter it was expected that this House would communicate its concurrence at once. We have lost a day already and I suggest, Sir, that the participation of this House in the deliberations of a Committee which has to sit on so important a Bill is very desirable and I commend to this House this particular motion.