

(b) if so, the expenditure involved in constructing the same?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) The scheme has not yet been finally approved by the Technical Advisory Committee on Irrigation and Power Projects.

(b) Does not arise.

Deep Sea Fishing

*982. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive survey was made in the East Coast for deep sea fishing;

(b) if so, the places selected for fishing; and

(c) whether mechanisation will be employed in these places?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). No comprehensive survey has been made by the Government of India on the East Coast for deep sea fishing. The establishment of off-shore units at Tuticorin and Visakhapatnam for this purpose is under consideration.

(c) Yes.

Purna Project, Bombay State

*983. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1339 on the 19th December, 1957 and state whether the Advisory Committee for Irrigation and Power have since received the communication from Bombay State Government giving any reasons for taking up the Purna Project?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): No, Sir.

Telephone Exchange at Madurai

*984. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 480 on the 28th May, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Automatic Telephone Exchange has since been installed at Madurai; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Not yet.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 35].

Thefts and Crimes on Trains

*985. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of thefts and murders committed in running trains on Indian Railways has recently increased;

(b) if so, the causes thereof; and

(c) what precautionary steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) There has been slight increase in the number of thefts and murders in running trains on a few railways during 1957 when compared with the figures of 1956.

(b) The general upward trend of crime in some States coupled with the scarcity conditions in East U.P. and Bihar had its effect on crime on the railways as well. Murders are fortuitous crimes and no reason can be ascribed for its increase or decrease.

(c) The following precautionary steps have been taken by the Railway Administrations to check such crimes in running trains:

- (i) Escorting of important goods and parcel trains by the R.P.F. personnel.
- (ii) Track patrolling in the affected sections.