

Electric Traction

*1668-A. Shri M. Elias: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the team which visited Europe to study electric traction by A.C. has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the nature of recommendations made by the team; and

(c) when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The team has recommended that 50 cycle, single phase, A.C. traction system at 25 K.V can be adopted for the Suburban and Main line sections on Indian Railways.

(c) The Board have accepted their recommendations.

Smoking and Cancer

*1672. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research or experiment is being carried on under the auspices of the Ministry as to whether heavy smoking is one of the causes of cancer; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of Health (Shri D. P. Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The research work on the subject which is being carried on at the Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay, and the Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay, seems to indicate that heavy smoking is one of the factors responsible for a high incidence of lung cancer.

Hassan-Mangalore Railway Line

*1675. Shri Siddananjappa: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2131 on the 13th September, 1956 and state:

(a) whether a complete report of the survey of Hassan-Mangalore Railway line has been received by the Railway Board;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the report; and

(c) with what result?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The report is under scrutiny.

Kandla Port

*1676. Shri Yajnik: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the working of Kandla Port has been slowed down recently for want of planned estimates or for want of funds?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): No, Sir. There has been no slowing down of the work of construction of the Port of Kandla. The cargo berths have been brought into commission. Certain ancillary works which are in progress are expected to be completed within a year.

Influenza Epidemic

*1677. { Shri Subodh Hasda:
Shri Pangarkar:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri Naushir Bharucha:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Influenza is still raging in some States;

(b) if so, the names of States;

(c) whether there have been any cases due to the "Second Wave" of Influenza; and

(d) if so, whether Government have sent out instructions to authorities concerned not to relax precautions?

The Minister of Health (Shri D. P. Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Yes. The incidence of Influenza though on the decline, is still high in Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Mysore, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh and Manipur. The epidemic has practically