

advanced countries, to study the methods adopted in those countries, when agencies such as World Health Organisation, Technical Co-operation Administration and Colombo Plan, offer fellowships for such studies.

BOMBAY STEAM NAVIGATION Co.

*1287. **Shri Neswi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bombay Steam Navigation Co., had offered to move the traffic from the Hubli District to Bombay via Marmugao harbour;

(b) if so, whether the Railway responded and supplied adequate number of wagons regularly;

(c) if not, what were the reasons; and

(d) what steps would be taken to utilise the sea-cum-rail route?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. The Southern Railway has through booking arrangements with the Bombay Steam Navigation Co. for movement of traffic between Bombay and Metre Gauge Stations on that Railway within the State of Bombay via Mormugao Harbour.

(b) Consistent with wagon availability vis-a-vis the overall demands the Southern Railway arranges wagon supply for indents registered for movement of traffic via Mormugao Port and at the end of October 1952, there were no outstanding demands.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The movement by the sea-cum-rail route is elected by the consignor and the question of the Southern Railway diverting traffic to utilize this route does not arise.

UNDERGROUND RAILWAY FOR CALCUTTA

*1288. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Calcutta was ever surveyed for the purpose of constructing an underground Railway?

(b) If so, when was it surveyed last?

(c) Has the report of that survey been submitted to Government?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, have Government given any consideration to that report?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) At the instance of the Government of West Bengal a scheme for an underground railway was prepared by the French Metropolitan Mission.

(b) The French Metropolitan Mission submitted the preliminary information in February 1949 to the West Bengal Government.

(c) Not to the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise.

PROCUREMENT PRICES OF PADDY AND RICE

*1289. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to raise the procurement prices of paddy and rice for the 1952-53 season?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Procurement price of paddy/rice for 1952-53 season has been fixed at 1951-52 level. Some increases have since been sanctioned in the case of Madras and Mysore. It is not proposed to sanction a general increase in the procurement prices in all the States.

QUILON-ERNAKULAM RAILWAY LINE

*1298. **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway line will be broad gauge or metre gauge;

(b) whether Government have received any new representation recently from the Ministers of Travancore-Cochin State; and

(c) whether there has been representations from individuals and organisations on the necessity of a broad gauge line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) It has been decided to construct the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway as a metre gauge line.

(b) and (c). Yes.

ACQUISITION OF LAND NEAR ASANSOL

*1308. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 1800 bighas of land were acquired near Asansol (West Bengal) some years ago for the purpose of constructing an aerodrome for civil aviation;