

ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY LINES

*597. **Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there are any schemes for the electrification of any railway lines, or for the extension of existing electric lines?

(b) If so, which are the lines so contemplated and when will they be taken up?

(c) Have any representations been received on this question from the public and if so, what are they?

(d) Have the Government of India given any assurances to such public representations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes; Igatpuri to Bhusawal on the Central Railway and Tambaram to Chingleput on the Southern Railway. The schemes are under examination, but their implementation will depend upon the availability of funds.

(c) and (d). Representations have been received from time to time for various sections particularly on Tambaram-Chingleput, and suburban section on the Eastern Railway. No assurance has, however, been given so far.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, when it is expected to start work on the Tambaram-Chingleput line?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, the question is under examination.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether there is a proposal to electrify the Madras-Bezawada line due to the difficulties on that line?

Shri Alagesan: No such proposal exists.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether we can expect the work on the Tambaram-Chingleput line to start next year?

Shri Alagesan: I have already answered the question, Sir, that this is under examination.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether the Government will give any assurance that it will be started soon?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government to start electrification of railways in such areas where electricity is easily available?

Shri Alagesan: Electrification is very desirable, Sir, but the initial cost involved is so much that we are at present deterred from speeding it up.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know in what stage is the proposal for electrification of the Calcutta suburban railway or the Calcutta-Moghulsarai line?

Shri Alagesan: That proposal is, of course, there but it is not under active consideration.

RAILWAY STATION FOR MAHE

*599. **Shri Nambiar:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Railway station for the area of Mahe is sandwiched by French territory and there is consequent difficulty in reaching it?

(b) If so, have any representations been received about it?

(c) What steps are being taken to relieve the people of this area of this difficulty?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The Railway Station at Mahe is not sandwiched by French territory, but the approach road to the station on one side passes through French territory.

(b) No representations have been received by the Railway Administration from the public about any inconvenience on this account.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Nambiar: May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that the difficulties undergone by the passengers going by that road is due to the presence of the Mahe police on the line?

Mr. Speaker: He refers to the difficulties outside the railway premises.

Shri Nambiar: No, Sir, from the railway station to the particular road.

Mr. Speaker: Does that road pass through the railway premises or outside the railway premises?

Shri Nambiar: From the railway limit it passes through the French territory.

Mr. Speaker: The inconvenience is experienced obviously outside the railway territory. There can be no scope for further questions on this. That is a question to be put to the External Affairs Ministry and not to the Railway Ministry.