

CHITTORE-KOTAH RAILWAY LINE

*779. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of linking up Chittore to Kotah by constructing a new line;

(b) whether the preliminary survey of the line has been conducted long since; and

(c) the estimated cost of constructing the line?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahawaz Khan): (a) Not at present.

(b) A preliminary survey for a metre gauge line connecting Chittorgarh and Kotah was carried out in 1945-46 and 1946-47.

(c) A metre gauge link is likely to cost about Rs. 4 crores, while a broad gauge link will cost about Rs. 6 crores.

RIVER VALLEY PROJECTS

*780. **Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the answer given to the starred question No. 1901 on the 21st July, 1952 regarding labour laws in river valley projects and state whether the information had since been collected and if so, when it would be supplied to the House?

(b) Has any action been taken in the matter referred to in part (c) of that question, and if so, what is the result?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information asked for by the Member is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 37.]

AERODROME FOR NILGIRIS

*781. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a civil aerodrome in the Nilgiris; and

(b) if so, at what stage the proposal stands at present?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

IMPORT OF FOOD GRAINS

*782. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any decision as to the quantity of food grains to be imported during the year 1953; and

(b) if so, what are the quantities of rice, wheat and other grains that would be imported and from which countries?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. F. S. Deshmukh): (a) A final decision has not been taken but the imports are provisionally expected to be about 2.6 million tons.

(b) About 1.85 million tons is expected to be wheat from U.S.A., Canada, Australia and Argentina and about 0.75 million tons rice mainly from Burma, China and Thailand.

CENTRAL ROAD RESERVE FUND

260. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given or are going to give any grant to Bombay Government from the Central Road Reserve Fund during the current year; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the total amount of such grant and the categories of roads after which it is to be spent?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Grants aggregating about Rs. 30 lakhs have been offered and of these Rs. 11 lakhs are likely to be allotted this year for certain bridge works, village roads, and road works of inter-State or national importance. A sum of Rs. 30,000 only has so far been allotted during the current year towards the cost of one of the State's road schemes.

FODDER SCARCITY

262. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the area or areas in India where fodder scarcity existed during the past six months;

(b) what steps were taken by Government to ameliorate that scarcity;

(c) whether any cattle death has occurred in any of these areas on account of starvation; and

(d) if the reply to part (c) above be in the affirmative, how many fodder starvation deaths have occurred?