The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Sari Alagesan): (a) A statement giving the information required is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix XII, annexure No. 7.]

- (b) No.
- (c) Does not arise.

NANGAL MANDI RAILWAY LINE

*2178. Shri Hem Raj: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under contemplation of the Railway Board to construct a railway line from Nangal township to Mandi town in Himachal Pradesh?

- (b) If so, when will it be under-taken?
 - (c) What is its estimated cost?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

REPRESENTATION FROM MICA LABOUR UNION.

[HUMRITELAIYA]

*2180. Shri B. D. Shastri: (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received any representation from the Mica Labour Union, Jhumritelaiya Hazaribagh District (Bihar), protesting against the interference of the Revenue Minister of Bihar in the working of Labour Unions attached to the mica mines of Hazaribagh District?

(b) What action have the Government of India taken in the matter?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) No

(b) Does not arise.

FURLOUGH LEAVE OF Ex-SCINDIA STATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*2181. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the furlough leave earned by the ex-Scindia State Railway employees has not been carried forward by the Central Railway;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in the case of employees of the former Gwalior State transferred to the other Central Government Departments, such furlough leave has been carried forward; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). Instructions have been issued, both in respect of the Ex-Scindia State Railemployees and in respect of the former Gwalior State employees transferred to other Central Government Departments, that the leave due under the old rules, should be carried forward subject to the limits prescribed in the new leave rules based on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. The Central Railway have not so far permitted the carry forward of furlough. No information regarding such carry forward in the case of employees of the former Gwalior State transferred to other Departments is available and the matter is being looked into with a view to removing disparity if any.

MEMORANDUM FROM INDIAN SEAMEN'S LEAGUE BOMBAY

*2182. Shri B. S. Murthy: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Government of India received any memorandum from the Indian Seamen's League, Bombay, demanding certain benefits and praying for the revision of the Merchant Shipping Act and increased wages, etc.?

(b) What action have Government taken or propose to take on the Memorandum?

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

(b) With the exception of a few demands, most of them relate to service conditions of seamen such as pension, gratuity, pay, leave, hours of duty, etc. These can be settled by negotiations between seamen and their employers.

As regards the other demands which concern Government directly, the Government of India are concerting measures for the setting up of Employment Offices for seaman, and have already relaxed suitably the standards of medical examination for seamen. The question of the revision of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, is also under consideration.

CONSTRUCTION OF TUBE-WELLS IN NORTH GUJRAT

*2185. Dr. Amin: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total amount of loan advanced by the Central Government to