

RAILWAY LINES FOR MADRAS

*1360. **Shri Boovaraghasamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of representations received from the public of the Madras State for construction of new Railway Lines on the Southern Railway during the year 1952; and

(b) what were those new lines requested for construction?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) It is not possible to state definitely the number of representations received from the public of Madras State for the construction of new lines on the Southern Railway as no separate record is maintained of such representations.

(b) As far as can be gathered, representations were received mainly for the following lines:—

- (i) Division of the main line *via* Kakinada.
- (ii) Chamarajanagar - Satyaman-galam.
- (iii) Mangalore-Hassam.
- (iv) Trivandrum to Cape Comorin.
- (v) Kovvur-Ramapada Sagar Dam Site.
- (vi) Dingigul-Gudalur.

Shri Boovaraghasamy: May I know when the Government are going to consider the construction of the following new lines:—

- (1) Connecting Kumbakonam and Vriddachalam...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is clearly making a suggestion for action. If he has only suggestions to make, and no information to ask for he may communicate his suggestions to the hon. Minister by letter.

Shri Nanadas: Among the lines mentioned just now, may I know which have been given priority?

Shri Alagesan: We are undertaking the Mangalore-Hassam line in the current year.

Shri Muniswamy: In constructing new lines, do the Central Government consult the State Government and if so, on what points?

Shri Alagesan: Certainly. They urge the importance of the new con-

structions that have to be undertaken and it is considered in the Central Board of Transport.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is it a fact that dismantled railways will be re-constructed first before new lines are constructed?

Shri Alagesan: That question has been very widely discussed during the Budget discussions.

Shri Nambiar: Have Government received any representation for a railway line connecting Kumbakonam and Vriddachalam?

Mr. Speaker: I think we are going into details.

Shri Nambiar: No, Sir. The question was whether any representations were received by him with regard to new lines, and in the list that he read out this railway is omitted. Therefore, I want to know whether any representation has been received in respect of it or not.

Shri Alagesan: The list I have given is not exhaustive. There have been representations regarding other lines too, and I will place the rest of the information before the House after collecting it.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Sarmah.

Shri Beli Ram Das: I have been authorised by him to put this question.

Mr. Speaker: Then it will come at the end.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I would prefer to answer it, and just now.

Mr. Speaker: He may answer it, but it will come at the end only.

FAMINE AND DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN MADRAS

*1362. **Shri Vallatharas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the announcement of the Chief Minister of Madras State made on the 20th March, 1953 in the State Legislative Assembly that the problem of the suffering of the people in the Madras State, especially in the Southern District of Thiruchirappally and Rampad, has assumed such a dimension that the Madras State at this juncture cannot cope with;

(b) whether Government will lay on the Table of the House a statement