

(d) if the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, when these projects will be taken up for construction?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri Banerjee: Is it under the contemplation of Government to take up this project at all, and if so, when?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: For the present, the construction of these railway lines has been dropped. It is not being considered at the present time.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Have any of these schemes been at any time considered by the Railway Board?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Each one of these schemes has been considered from at various times by the Central Board of Transport, but as I said, it has been decided to drop them for the time being, because we are taking up only those important schemes which are included in the Five Year Plan.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the question of constructing a railway line from Belda to Digha has been considered, because there is a salt factory at Contai and a sanitorium at Digha?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Keeping in view all these important considerations, it has been decided to drop the proposal.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: May I know the procedure, the method and the principles that are followed in considering proposals for constructing new railway lines?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The matter is considered by the Central Board of Transport and the Railway Board. Priorities are fixed in the order of importance in which the new lines will further the completion and successful implementation of the Five Year Plan.

Prof. D. C. Sharma: I want to know the criteria that determine the priority.

Mr. Speaker: That would require a very long answer.

ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY LINES ON SOUTHERN RAILWAY

***1471. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the electrification of certain sections of Southern Railway as recommended by the Fuel Economy Committee, will commence; and

(b) the length of railway line which will be covered by electrification between Trichinopoly and Madras Egmore?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The recommendations of the Committee are being examined and it is not possible to say at this stage what the final decision will be.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the Fuel Economy Committee has recommended any line to be electrified in the Andhra State?

Shri Alagesan: They have recommended the electrification of the line between Madras and Bezwada.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Is there any chance of the new rail link between Quilon and Ernakulam being electrified?

Shri Alagesan: That is under investigation.

Shri Vittal Rao: Has the committee suggested the discontinuance of the use of metallurgical coal for locomotives?

Shri Alagesan: It has gone into various subjects, and this is one.

RAILWAY COLLIERIES IN GIRIDIH

***1473. Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that high grade metallurgical coal is available in the Railway collieries in Giridih?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Yes.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: Has Government got any estimate of the total availability of metallurgical coal in these collieries?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The question should be addressed to the Production Ministry.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: May I know whether it is a fact that large quantities of metallurgical coal are