

(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

being wasted on railway locomotives and that is why these collieries are working at a great loss?

**Shri Alagesan:** We are at present not getting the required quantity of low grade coal; hence, we are using the metallurgical coal. Still, there is a limit fixed for its consumption.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** May I know whether these collieries are proposed to be transferred to the Ministry of Production, because metallurgical coal is available in them?

**Shri Alagesan:** They have been already transferred.

**Shri Nambiar:** As a result of this transfer, may I know whether large scale retrenchment is being planned in Giridih?

**Shri Alagesan:** This is for the Production Ministry. It has been answered in this House.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** Is it proposed to use electricity in place of metallurgical coal?

**Shri Alagesan:** I want notice?

**Shri Nambiar:** Arising out of the answer that there is going to be retrenchment, may I know what steps are being taken to give employment to the men who will be thrown out?

**Mr. Speaker:** He did not say whether there would or would not be retrenchment. He said that the question should be addressed to the Production Ministry.

**Shri Nambiar:** He said it has been answered previously.

**Mr. Speaker:** He says it is a question for the Production Minister.

**Shri Nambiar:** Collieries are under the Railways.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us accept his statement.

#### SURVEY OF GROUND-WATER RESOURCES

\*1474. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether an agreement has been arrived at between the Governments of India and the U.S.A. with a view to undertaking a survey of the ground-water resources of India?

(b) If so, what is the estimated cost involved in that survey?

(c) When will that survey work start?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Yes. It is not a survey, but it is explorations.

(b) The total cost of the project is estimated to be 4.5 million dollars and 1.2 crores of rupees.

(c) Immediately.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether the dollar part of the money will be met by the U.S.A. Government and the rupee part by the Government of India?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Yes.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether this work will be carried on only in areas where sub-soil conditions are fairly well known or will it be carried on on an all-India basis to find out the sub-soil water potentialities?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have replied to this sort of question sometime back. We have fixed up the areas also, and that will indicate the nature of our explorations.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** May I know whether this survey is conducted under the supervision of the Government of India or under the supervision of the foreign authority?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The whole work is done under our supervision, under our control and under our guidance; and apart from supplying us the funds the U.S.A. Government has nothing to do with this.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether under the agreement this Government has reserved for itself any powers for recruiting specialists and other personnel needed for the work and, if so, what are those powers?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** These powers have always rested with us, and in every instance they rest with us.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** May I know how many experts are required to carry on this exploratory work and what their salaries and allowances are?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** If foreign experts are meant none at all at any rate so far.

#### FAMILY PLANNING

\*1475. **Shri Achuthan:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the family planning work has begun in any State in India?

(b) If so, what is the nature of work so far done?