

**The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai):** (a) A statement showing the scales of wages and dearness allowance of workmen in Kolar Gold Fields is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 2.]

(b) and (c). An industrial dispute was raised by the workmen and Government have referred it to an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know when this tribunal will decide or is expected to decide in the case?

**Shri K. K. Desai:** We understand that the tribunal has already gone to Bangalore on the 19th of this month.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know whether there is any interim relief given to these labourers in regard to wages, allowance etc.?

**Shri K. K. Desai:** Now that the question has been referred to the tribunal, it is for them to decide whether any relief is to be given.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** I want to know whether there was any demand by the labourers there for any interim relief and whether Government have considered that demand?

**Shri K. K. Desai:** As I said, the question of the whole dispute has been referred to the tribunal.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** The point is, whether under the terms of reference, grant of interim relief is included?

**Shri K. K. Desai:** The demands which were made by the workers were: revision of wages, termination of gratuity and bonus for the year 1952. All these three terms of reference were referred to the tribunal.

#### NEW RAILWAY LINES IN HYDERABAD

**\*1233. Diwan Raghavendra Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations that have been made by the Hyderabad Government for the construction of new Railway lines in the State;

(b) whether the people of the Hyderabad State have also made any representation in this connection; and

(c) if so, which of those recommendations have been accepted?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) The following lines have been recommended:—

(1) Ramagundam to Nizamabad.

(2) Gadag to Kothagudium Rairchur Gadwal.

(3) Jalna to Bhir to Osmanabad and on to Sholapur and connection with the Parli-Vajinath line.

(4) Adilabad to Rajpura.

(5) Macherla to Nalgonda and on to Hyderabad-Dronachellam line.

(6) Wadi to Bijapur.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No final decision has yet been reached.

**Diwan Raghavendra Rao:** May I know when the Sholapur-Jalna line is likely to be taken for construction?

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** We have not taken any decision on the matter yet.

**Diwan Raghavendra Rao:** May I know if Government are aware that the railway line hardly touches the districts of Bhir and Osmanabad and as such the districts remain undeveloped economically? May I also know what criteria are there to decide the priority in giving preference to construction of railway lines.

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** As I have already stated, no decision has yet been taken. I am sure when any final decision is taken, all these factors will be taken into consideration.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know whether, when construction of new

lines is taken up, the opinion of State Governments is taken or the Railway Department themselves decide the construction of new lines?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** The opinion of State Governments is always taken and in fact we have addressed all the State Governments to indicate their priority as well as a list of new lines which they want to be constructed in their States.

#### DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN

**\*1234. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian Service personnel have been deputed to Afghanistan to operate the Communications and Meteorological Stations at Kabul;

(b) if so, their number and the period of deputation; and

(c) whether any financial liability devolves on Government in respect of the deputationists and if so, how much?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) to (c). The question of rendering assistance to the Afghanistan Government in the establishment of Aeronautical Communication and meteorological facilities at Kabul and Kandahar by providing necessary equipment and technical personnel to install and operate it, is under consideration. Negotiations in the matter are still in progress with the Government of Afghanistan.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Are such negotiations in progress with any other country?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The case of Afghanistan is a peculiar one because necessary facilities have to be provided there and they stand in need of technical personnel, equipment etc. Negotiations with them are under way. I do not know whether we stand in that relation with any other country at the moment.

#### DISPLACED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

**\*1235. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 1581 asked on the 5th April, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the examination of the judgment of Bombay High Court wherein it was held that "Railway Employees who had opted for service in Pakistan and made their final choice in favour of service in India within prescribed time were entitled to their wages from the day they reported on duty", has since been concluded;

(b) if so, the decision arrived at; and

(c) the number of such employees who have not been paid such wages?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know when this protracted consideration will reach a stage of finality because this question has been hanging fire for well over five years and it has been raised in this very House so many times?

**Shri Alagesan:** The hon. Member himself put a question and referred to the judgment of the Bombay High Court as a result of which this matter has now come under consideration. This judgment, I understand, has been delivered in the third week of March, 1954, as the hon. Member himself has mentioned in the last question. So, Sir, it is only a few months that we have been considering this matter.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** In view of the fact that this question of provisional optees to Pakistan has created dissatisfaction not only among the employees concerned, but among the minority communities also, do Government propose to hasten the consideration and can Government say by which time the consideration will be finished?