

**Dr. Jaisoorya:** All-India average?

**Shri Kidwai:** In other States where the machinery is not so effective the procurement is less in proportion to the local production.

**Mr. Speaker:** Can he give the all-India average?

**Shri Kidwai:** I am afraid it is not possible.

#### RAILWAY LINES IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN STATE

\*343. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lines for the proposed Railways in the Travancore-Cochin State are finally fixed; and

(b) whether the construction work will start immediately?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** (a) The construction of the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway has been approved of.

(b) Arrangements are being made to carry out the final location survey first. Construction will be taken in hand, after the alignment has been finalised and estimate sanctioned.

**Shri Velayudhan:** With regard to part (a) of my question, may I know whether the survey work is finished or not?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** The preliminary part of it has been finished but the final survey will take some time more.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know when the actual construction will begin?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** During 1952-53, we expect.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether the materials required for the construction of this railway have been ordered?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** I do not know if the actual order has been placed, but in any case there will be no difficulty in getting the necessary materials.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know whether the contemplated line will pass through the coastal belt or will be through central Travancore.

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** I require notice.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know which are the works that are expected to be

completed with the funds already allotted in the Budget this year?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is a much wider question. This question refers to the Travancore-Cochin State only.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** No, Sir. I am asking in respect of the Quilon-Ernakulam Railway only, what are the works that are expected to be completed, with the funds already provided for in the Budget this year.

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** The funds allotted are for the preliminary survey work only. The estimated total cost will come to Rs. 8 crores and 23 lakhs. Thus, the provision in the Budget is only for the preliminary and final surveys.

**Shri Velayudhan:** What is the reason for this two-year delay even in conducting the survey? How long more will it take?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** As I told the hon. Member everything has been completed. The only thing that remains to be done is the final location survey. This year this will be done and construction will commence thereafter.

Several Hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am going to the next question.

#### EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL STAFF (RECRUITMENT)

\*344. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure followed for the appointment of extra departmental staff to man the village post offices;

(b) what is the total number of persons appointed in the various categories of staff during 1951-52 giving circle-wise figures; and

(c) whether applications were invited for the above mentioned appointments and whether any examinations were held by any authority?

**The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) The Extra Departmental Staff are selected ordinarily from amongst the local residents of the village where they are proposed to be employed. Generally the men are engaged either by inviting applications or through District or Village authorities. Persons with independent means, such as Government pensioners, teachers etc. are selected.