

(b) whether any portion of the said roads has been metalled, tarred or concreted and if so, how much?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) 32½ miles have black-top surface, 41½ miles have cement-concreted surface and about 170 miles have water bound macadam surface. There is no section of National Highways which is not provided with a hard crust.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether the Ministry of Transport has assumed the entire liability for the west coast road in Travancore-Cochin?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes, we have.

Shri Achuthan: May I know, Sir, what is the amount contributed by the Central Government in metalling these roads?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Well, we have provided in the budget four lakhs of rupees for original works development and for maintenance and repairs six lakhs and twelve thousands.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether investigation had been made for the siting of bridges?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Yes.

Shri A. M. Thomas: What are those bridges, Sir?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Avoor and Periyar Bridges.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether the present line of the west coast is proposed to be changed?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I have no idea.

TRICHUR-KOLLENGODE RAILWAY LINE

*1471. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any survey was at any time made regarding the possibility of linking Trichur with Kollengode by rail?

(b) If so, what is the result?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Traffic and Engineering surveys for this line were last carried out in 1946-47.

(b) The survey reports revealed that the anticipated earnings of the line would not be sufficient to cover even the working expenses. Moreover, adequate road transport facilities are already available on this section. The Central Board of Transport decided therefore that the proposal should be dropped.

Shri A. M. Thomas: What was the estimated cost of the line?

Shri L. B. Shastri: The estimated cost is for broad-gauge about 3 crores and 2 lakhs and for metre-gauge lines two crores and fifty-nine lakhs.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know the length of the line?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I am sorry I shall require notice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know, Sir, whether having regard to the number of years that have passed after investigation, the Government will again take up the matter?

Shri L. B. Shastri: We do not take up the matter just at present. We may consider it later.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government that when a survey is already made, a line will be constructed through that area at least?

Shri L. B. Shastri: That is not so. Survey is first made and then other factors are taken into consideration before taking a final decision.

F.A.O. FELLOWSHIPS

*1472. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that F.A.O. has granted some travelling fellowships to Indian students for training abroad in cafeteria system?

(b) If so, how many fellowships have been granted?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Three.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, the value of the travelling fellowships?

Shri Kidwai: Well, the travel cost from this country for this training would be borne by the Government of India, Ministry of Food and Agriculture out of the grant given to N.I.W.F.C. The rest of the expenditure including subsistence allowance, tuition fees and travel cost necessary within the country to be visited will be borne by the F.A.O.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the F.A.O. has agreed to send an instructor for a catering training institute here?

Shri Kidwai: The F. A. O. will meet part of the cost and the grant made to the N.I.W.F.C. will meet the balance.