

posal to connect Vijapur to Ransipur by a railway line but the project has been postponed.

(b) The former Baroda State had, in 1920, applied for, and obtained, sanction for the construction of a railway line from Vijapur to Vadnagar. But only a little before the merger of the Baroda State in Bombay, earth work was started by the Baroda Government as a famine relief measure and completed to a certain extent. As the original Government sanction was accorded more than thirty years ago, a fresh examination was thought necessary before further construction was undertaken. It was later decided to postpone the project as it could not be considered to merit sufficient priority from the national standpoint. Preliminary investigations also showed that the project would not be financially justified.

KANGPOKPI-TAMANGLONG ROAD

*542. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) how far the road building from Kangpokpi to the Hill Sub-Division of Tamanglong in Manipur State has progressed;

(b) the amount invested in the road development Scheme for Manipur State; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the road under construction, after touching Tamanglong Sub-Division will be diverted towards Tiribom Sub-Division of Manipur, which has no communications at all to link up with any administrative units of the State?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Work on the first 26 miles of the road from Kangpokpi was commenced on 15th March 1952 and so far about 32 per cent. of the earth work has been carried out. Detailed estimates and plans for the remaining section (52 miles) are under preparation.

(b) The five-year road development plan for Manipur State includes a tentative provision of Rs. 25 lakhs for this road, out of a total provision of Rs. 81.25 lakhs.

(c) There is no proposal at present to extend the road beyond Tamanglong.

COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES

*543. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes has concluded his fact-finding tour;

(b) whether he has submitted any interim report; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the salient features of the said report?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has submitted a report, as required under Article 338(2) of the Constitution.

(c) The report is under examination and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

*544. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission have been accepted as far as the Ministerial staff of the Railways are concerned?

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

MOVEMENT OF RICE AND CATTLE BETWEEN MANIPUR AND ASSAM

*545. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is no effective control on the movement of rice and cattle between Manipur and Assam?

(b) What steps have been taken to ensure a fair price for rice-growers in Manipur?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) There is effective control over movement of rice between Manipur and Assam. No restrictions, however, exist on movement of cattle between these States.

(b) With a view to giving the rice-growers, as distinct from the middleman, a fair price, the State Government have fixed procurement price of rice at Rs. 11 per maund from January, 1952 as against Rs. 7/2/- to Rs. 10/13/- per maund in 1951.

D. M. COLLEGE STRIKE

*546. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that troops were called out and firing resorted to, during the D. M. College strike at Imphal?

(b) Have Government made any enquiry into the police excesses alleged to have been committed?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) No. I invite the attention of the hon. Member to the statement made by my predecessor on the 5th March 1952 in reply to a question by Shri A. C. Guha.

(b) Does not arise.

INFANT MORTALITY

***547. Shrimati Khongmen:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state which State has the highest percentage of infant mortality in India?

(b) What are the causes of infant mortality?

(c) What is the number of Child Welfare Centres in different States run by the Central Government, if any?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Information is available only as regards Part 'A' States and the Part 'C' States of Delhi, Ajmer and Coorg. Out of these States the State of Madhya Pradesh has the highest rate of infant mortality in India.

(b) The diseases mostly responsible for infant mortality are pneumonia, dysentery, diarrhoea, enteritis, malnutrition, congenital debility, convulsions, meningitis and smallpox.

(c) The Central Government are not running any Child Welfare Centres in the States. The number of Child Welfare Centres in Part 'C' States is 79.

LAWS IN THE ANDAMANS

***548. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what steps Government have already taken or propose to take to remove all penal laws, regulations and conventions in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The question of making suitable changes in the existing laws and regulations in the Andamans, including the repeal of those which have become obsolete, is under the consideration of the Government of India. In the meanwhile, none of the old penal laws or regulations is actually being enforced in the Islands.

EMPLOYMENT OF RESIDENTS OF THE ANDAMANS IN GOVERNMENT POSTS

***549. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether any discrimination is

made against the inhabitants of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the matter of recruitment to administrative or other Government posts and in the matter of emoluments paid to such employees?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): No distinction is made except that persons recruited from the mainland are given a special pay of 33½ per cent. of pay (subject to a maximum of Rs. 300 p.m.).

EDUCATION AND MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE ANDAMANS

***550. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how many elementary schools, high schools and hospitals are there in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and what is the number of teachers in the schools and doctors, compounders and nurses in the hospitals?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I lay on the Table of the House a copy of a statement giving the required information. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 29.]

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN RAYALASEEMA

***551. Shri Eswara Reddy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ex-Food Minister and the Commander-in-Chief had submitted any report on Rayalaseema famine situation after their tour in that area;

(b) if so, their opinions on the situation there and the relief measures proposed by them; and

(c) how far the Government have carried out their proposals?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwal): (a) to (c). Mr. Munshi prepared a report on the Rayalaseema food situation. A statement showing the suggestions made by him and decisions taken thereon by the Government of India is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 30.]

The Commander-in-Chief did not submit any report.

IMPORT OF TRACTORS

88. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state: