

Railway line be opened from Madurai to Karaikudi via Melur?

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

(b) There is no proposal to open the line now, as the project was dropped in 1935 in view of the Madras Government's opinion that the construction of this line would duplicate the existing road system. The project has not been recommended by the Madras Government in their post-War reconstruction programme and has, therefore, not been considered again.

LAMPHAL PAT

*677. **Shri L. J. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government granted permission for throwing open to cultivation the Lamphal Pat in Imphal town and if so, when?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that Lamphal Pat is the only grazing ground for the majority of the cattle of Imphal town?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). A portion of the Lamphal Pat adjoining Imphal town was thrown open for cultivation in April 1951 as part of the Grow More Food Campaign. Even after setting a portion of the area for cultivation, adequate grazing facilities are available for the cattle of the area.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE

*678. **Shri L. J. Singh:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether the Criminal Procedure Code has been introduced in Manipur?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The Criminal Procedure Code has not yet been extended to Manipur. A proposal for the extension of the Criminal Procedure Code to Manipur with suitable modifications is under consideration.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND ANDAMANS

*679. **Bishop Richardson:** (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state what steps are being taken to improve the facilities for communications between the mainland of India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

(b) What steps are being taken to give adequate medical aid to the people of the islands?

(c) What steps are being taken to prevent foreigners from poaching around the coasts of the islands?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Until the middle of 1950 there was only one vessel, namely s.s. *Maharaja*, for transporting passengers and cargo to and from the Islands. From June 1950, the Government of India chartered another vessel—s.s. *Bharatkhand* for the India-Andaman service. The possibilities of establishing a regular air service between the mainland and Port Blair are under consideration.

(b) The arrangements already made by Government to provide medical aid in the Islands are not inadequate. For a population of about 31 thousand, there are 364 beds in the various hospitals and dispensaries in the Islands. Government are proposing to make provision for more beds at Mayabunder. The appointment of an additional Medical Officer in the Nicobar group is also under consideration.

(c) All possible steps are being taken by Government in the matter.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AT TIS HAZARI

*680. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Telephone Exchange Plant for Tis Hazari Delhi Exchange has been purchased?

(b) If so, what has been its cost and when has it been purchased?

(c) Is it a fact that the working of this Exchange has been delayed due to the defective machinery?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 25 lakhs. In November, 1950.

(c) No.

QUARTERS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*681. **Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any standard plan for building quarters for the III and IV grade employees of the Railways; and

(b) what percentage of the employees of N. E. Railway still remain unprovided with quarters and how long will it take to provide each employee with a quarter?