

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?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes. Railways are however permitted to make minor modifications in the designs to suit local conditions.

(b) About 57 per cent. of staff on North Eastern Railway is not housed in railway quarters. According to Government's policy quarters are to be provided primarily for essential staff only, who are required to live on or near the railway premises, as they are liable to be called to duty at any time of the day. The time required for providing a quarter to every employee will depend on the funds made available in the years to come.

LAND SETTLEMENT IN IMPHAL

***682. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Assam Municipality Act, 1923, has been applied to Manipur and a municipality for Imphal town is being constituted with restricted franchise; and

(b) is it a fact that Thangmeiband, Sagoband, Uripok, Wahingbam Leikai and Keishamat areas lying in the heart of the town are being excluded from the Municipality?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These are rural areas which constitute the suburbs of the town but were excluded from the Municipal limits on the recommendation of the Imphal Town Fund Committee.

SETTLEMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS

***683. Shri Rishang Keishing:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that displaced persons were settled on vast plots of cultivable land in Manipur after ousting the local inhabitants from their settlements?

(b) Is it a fact that the landless peasants were ousted from Sugnu recently by Deputy Commissioner and displaced persons were settled there;

(c) Is it also a fact that Assam Rifles were posted to protect the displaced persons?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) In accordance with the general policy of Government about 400 to 500 displaced families from East Bengal have been settled in Manipur. Neither the number nor the area occupied by them is large; and no local inhabitant has been

ousted from any land to which he had any legal title or even a colourable claim of right.

(b) Some of the displaced persons who were to be rehabilitated in Manipur were settled at Sugnu where there was some Government waste land. Immediately it became known, certain local people occupied the land reserved for the displaced persons without any authority and with a view to driving the refugees away and occupying the land themselves. The Deputy Commissioner had to evict these persons as their occupation was quite unauthorised and illegal. It is not a fact that all the persons evicted were landless. Some of the landless people who were evicted have already been allotted other lands at Sugnu.

(c) In view of the hostile attitude of a section of the local people towards the refugees, a section of the Manipur Rifles (Armed Police) had to be posted at Sugnu to protect the life and property of the displaced persons.

CIRCUIT BENCH OF PUNJAB HIGH COURT

***684. Shri N. C. Chatterjee:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how many days the Circuit Bench of the Punjab High Court sat in Delhi;

(b) whether any intimation was given to the public of Delhi. Bar or the State Government by the hon. Judges or by the Registrar as to when the Circuit Bench would cease to function;

(c) if so, how many days before the Circuit Bench ceased to hold its sittings such notice was given;

(d) whether the Punjab High Court issued any notice as to when the Circuit Bench would again hold its sittings in Delhi;

(e) what arrangements, if any, have been made for the institution or filing of appeals or writ cases in the meantime in Delhi;

(f) whether in the interests of the litigant public of Delhi, Government would consider the desirability of having a permanent Bench of the High Court at Delhi; and

(g) whether it is a fact that some of the Honourable Judges of the Punjab High Court are not in favour of the Circuit Bench sitting in Delhi?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) The Circuit