

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

Bench sat from the 25th February 1952 to the 30th April, 1952.

(b) and (c). I understand that intimation was given to the public that the Court would be closing on the 30th April, 1952, but I have been unable to ascertain the exact date on which this was done.

(d) No. This is expected to be done shortly. I understand the Circuit Bench will sit again next month.

(e) No arrangements have yet been made in this regard, but I understand that the High Court proposes very shortly to station some staff at Delhi permanently for the institution and filing of appeals etc.

(f) This raises a controversial issue. Government would prefer to have some more experience of the working of the Circuit Court.

(g) The establishment of the Circuit Bench at Delhi was accepted by the Punjab High Court. I am not in a position to say what may have been the opinions of individual Judges.

NEW RAILWAY LINES FOR MADRAS, MYSORE & BOMBAY

*685. **Shri T. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Railway lines proposed to be constructed in the next five years in Madras, Mysore and Bombay States; and

(b) whether any proposals have been sent by the Governments of these States?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) So far it has been decided that one new line in Madras, viz. Satyamangalam-Chamrajanagar-Coimbatore, which will also serve the Mysore State, will be taken up during 1954-55 and 1955-56. One new line which passes through the Bombay State, viz., Kandla-Deesa, is expected to be completed during 1952. Besides this, restoration of three dismantled lines in the Madras State and two in the Bombay State will be completed during 1952-53 and 1953-54. Other projects to be taken up during the next five years will be considered in due course.

(b) Yes.

DIVERSION OF LAND FROM PADDY CULTIVATION TO JUTE CULTIVATION

*686. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total acreage of land transferred from paddy cultivation to jute cultivation in the State concerned in 1951-52; and

(b) what approximate quantity of paddy production has been affected thereby?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). No estimate of actual diversion is available. There was, however, a plan for diverting 278 thousand acres of land from rice cultivation to jute cultivation in the main jute-growing States during 1951-52, involving a loss of 78,000 tons of rice. The State-wise figures of planned diversion are as follows:

	('000 acres)
Assam	... 40
Bihar	... 100
Orissa	... 38
West Bengal	... 100
Total	... 278

TYPISTS IN RAILWAYS

*687. **Dr. Lanka Sundaram:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Typists on Railways form a separate cadre distinct from other clerical staff?

(b) Is it a fact that Typists submitted a memorial to the Minister of Railways some six months ago requesting for revision of their pay scale?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what action has been taken on the representation?

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

(c) The representation has been considered. It is regretted that the request for the allotment of the Rs. 68-170 scale or the payment of a special allowance of Rs. 20 cannot be acceded to. Posts in the Rs. 160-220 grade will be provided in accordance with the requirements of the work.