

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 Chatterjee:** 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.

The request for a reservation in recruitment to the grade of stenographers will receive further consideration.

CHAMARAANAGAR-METTUPALAYAM RAILWAY LINE

*688. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the survey was conducted and the estimate prepared to open a railway line from Chamaraanagar to Mettupalayam; and

(b) what is the estimated amount and what is its distance?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) A traffic and a preliminary engineering survey were carried out in 1948-49.

(b) The distance from Chamaraanagar to Mettupalayam is 89.50 miles and the cost of this project Rs. 4.32 crores. A better alignment, terminating at Coimbatore instead of at Mettupalayam has been decided upon. Its length will be 101.70 miles and the cost Rs. 4.65 crores.

हरपालपुर-छतरपुर रेलवे लाइन

*६८९. श्री आर० एस० तिवारी :
क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या हरपालपुर से नौगांव होती हुई छतरपुर तक एक रेलवे लाइन बिछाने के लिये कोई भूमापन किया गया था ;

(ख) यदि ऐसा भूमापन किया गया था, तो वह काम स्थगित क्यों कर दिया गया ; और

(ग) क्या वह काम अब पूरा किया जायेगा, और यदि किया जायेगा तो कब ?

HARPALPUR-CHHATARPUR RAILWAY LINE

[*689. **Shri R. S. Tiwari:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was made for constructing a railway line from Harpalpur to Chhatarpur via Nowgong;

(b) if such a survey was undertaken, why was the work suspended; and

(c) whether the construction will now be completed and if so, when?]

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

(b) The project was abandoned at the time (1926-27) due to the poor financial prospects disclosed.

(c) The Central Board of Transport, in the course of a review in March last of certain railway projects, decided to postpone the survey of a project which they had approved earlier and which would have included a line from Harpalpur to Chhatarpur. The question of taking up its construction will depend on the priority it is able to obtain as against other projects, after its survey has been approved and carried out.

TRIPURA STATE EMPLOYEES

*690. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the re-organisation Scheme in regard to the employees of Tripura State is completed; and

(b) whether their pay is being fixed according to the new scale?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): In respect of certain Departments of the Tripura Administration the re-organisation schemes as well as the revision of the scales of pay of the various posts have been sanctioned. There are certain Departments in respect of which the proposals are still under consideration.

VENDING CONTRACTS

*691. **Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what system is adopted in granting contracts to Vendors on various railway stations;

(b) whether it is a fact that tenders for vending contracts are not invited; and

(c) if so, what are those stations on the Northern Railway where tenders were not called for?

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

(b) Tenders are not invited.

(c) No tender was called for at any station on the Northern Railway except for six stations on the ex-Bikaner