

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

**CHAMARAJANAGAR-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 Chamarajanagar 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 Chamarajanagar 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 नीगांव 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. Raghur 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