

PIJ-NADIAD RAILWAY LINE

*1735. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Railway line called the Pij-Nadiad Railway is going to be constructed on the Western Railway;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether it will be a broad, metre or narrow gauge line, when is it likely to be completed and what is the estimated cost thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):
(a) Yes.

(b) It will be a Narrow Gauge line. The line is expected to be opened to traffic in March 1953. The estimated cost of construction including cost of Rolling Stock is Rs. 10.56,655.

Shri Dabhi: What is the amount to be spent and how much work is likely to be done this year?

Shri Satish Chandra: The construction is in progress and the Western Railway have intimated to us that the line may be opened by 1st March 1953, i.e. within the current financial year.

Shri Dabhi: What is the length of the line?

Shri Satish Chandra: 3½ miles.

VASAD-KATHANA RAILWAY LINE

*1736. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the restoration of the dismantled Vasad-Kathana Railway line has begun; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, when is the restoration likely to be completed and what is estimated cost thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):
(a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The line is expected to be opened to traffic by 31st March 1953. The estimated cost of restoration of the line is Rs. 49.4 lakhs.

Shri Dabhi: Are the locomotives and other materials used in this line second hand or new?

Mr. Speaker: It need not be answered.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
(CORRUPTION)

*1737. **Shri Ajit Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees in the Central Secretariat have been found corrupt in each Ministry since 1947;

(b) how many of them have been dismissed from the service; and

(c) the total number of those whose cases are still under investigation?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The information required is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

STEAMER PASSENGERS COMMITTEE

*1739. **Shri M. D. Joshi:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Steamer Passengers (of the Konkan) Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1949-50 has been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the recommendations of the Committee and whether any action has been taken on any of the recommendations; and

(c) when the report will be published for public information?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):
(a) Yes. The Shipping Rates Advisory Board, which was constituted by Government in July 1949 to advise on what should be the reasonable deck passenger fares in the Konkan trades, submitted an interim report in March 1950 and the final report in June 1951.

(b) Yes. The shipping companies operating passenger services on the Konkan coast had raised the fares by 50 per cent. from the 1st April 1949. As a result of persuasion by Government, the companies concerned made a voluntary reduction of 8½ per cent. in the fares both in the Konkan coastal and in the inland services with effect from May 1950. In their final report the Board had recommended that in view of this voluntary reduction of 8-1/3 per cent., no further reduction in the fares was called for as regards Konkan inland services, but that, as regards Konkan coastal services a reduction of 12½ per cent. in the level of fares obtaining on 1st April 1949 should be made. Since the Deck Passenger Committee's report had made