

## 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

certain recommendations regarding the provision of increased amenities for deck passengers which, when implemented, would mean increased expenditure and reduced earnings to the Steamer Companies, and further, since, in the meanwhile, the costs of operation had gone up considerably, Government came to the conclusion that there was no justification for further reduction in the passenger fares in the Konkan coastal services.

(c) It was not thought desirable to publish the reports of the Board as they contained information relating to the working of the Companies which had been furnished to the Board confidentially.

**Shri M. D. Joshi:** May I know, Sir, whether Government delete certain portions which are not necessary for publication and only publish such portions as can be published?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Only conclusions are published. It is the practice in the Commerce and Industry Ministry also in respect of the Tariff Board Reports. The accounts of business and industrial concerns are examined, on the understanding that they would not be published. Only the conclusions are made known to the public.

**Shri M. D. Joshi:** It was said that the reduction in the fares recommended by the committee was 12½ per cent. Will Government take steps to implement that recommendation?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** That was the recommendation of the Board. But Government thought that this reduction will mean only a relief of a few annas to each passenger. They are, therefore, insisting on better amenities being provided to passengers, on lesser number of passengers being carried on a particular trade ship to avoid overcrowding, resulting in a lot of inconvenience to the passengers. Higher standards have been prescribed by Government according to the recommendations of the Deck Passengers Committee.

**Shri M. D. Joshi:** Have Government insisted on those amenities being provided for the passengers?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Yes, Sir; that is being insisted.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** What are the extra amenities that Government are contemplating to provide?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I cannot say off-hand, but Government has given detailed instructions in the matter.

#### GRASS OF AMERICAN ORIGIN

**\*1740. Jonab Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any grass of American origin which is being experimented in Assam by the Agriculture Department of that State, which drives flies and mosquitoes and also serves as a fodder to cattle;

(b) if so, with what success;

(c) what is it commonly called; and

(d) whether it is proposed to be experimented in other States?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) and (b). A grass of South American origin for the first time tried in India by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been found to grow well in many parts of the country, especially Assam. Experiments conducted at different centres showed that the grass was useful as fodder. It does not, however, possess insect repelling properties attributed to it.

(c) It is commonly called Veneruela grass.

(d) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research have completed their experiments and published the results. It is now for the State Governments, to introduce cultivation of this grass, if they so desire.

**Jonab Amjad Ali:** May I know whether the Government of Assam has asked for any aid in this respect from the Government of India?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Not that I am aware of.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Has the Government fully experimented as to whether there is any bad effect due to this grass?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Government have examined; but there is no bad effect.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** How many varieties of grass have been tried and how many have failed?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am sure that only this has been experimented upon; about the others I shall find out.

#### RAILWAY LINK FROM GARO HILLS TO ASSAM RAILWAY SYSTEM

**\*1741. Jonab Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the speech of Shri B. Medhi, Chief