

ERNAKULAM-QUILON RAILWAY LINE

***48. Kumari Annie Mascarene:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the amount allotted in 1952-53 Budget for the Ernakulam-Quilon Railway Line?

(b) Will Government place a copy of the result of the Traffic and Engineering Survey recently conducted for the new railway line?

(c) How long will it take to complete the line and run the service?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) A provision of Rs. 4 lakhs is being made in the revised Budget for 1952-53 for the commencement of the work.

(b) Copies of the traffic and engineering survey reports of the project are placed on the Table of the House. [Reports placed in the Library. See No. P-16/52.]

The estimates submitted by the Railway Administration are, however, under scrutiny and may undergo some modifications.

(c) The Government are not in a position to state at present when the line will be completed, as this would depend on when the construction is sanctioned and the availability of funds from year to year.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether any preliminary step besides engineering survey by way of acquisition of land has been done?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Nothing has been done so far but Government has given high priority to this project and we propose to commence the work this year.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know whether any order has been given for materials necessary for this work?

Shri L. B. Shastri: No. Not yet.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT BOARD

***49. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Inland Water Transport Board has been set up; and

(b) if so—

(i) when;

(ii) what is its composition;

(iii) what are its functions; and

(iv) what are the rivers in which navigation is considered to be possible?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes. A Board known as the Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Transport Board has been set up to coordinate activities relating to navigation on the Ganga-Brahmaputra system of rivers.

(b) A copy of the Resolution issued on the 8th March 1952 describing the composition and functions of the Board is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 16.]

The more important rivers with navigational possibilities are Ganga, Brahmaputra, Bhagirathi, Kosi, Ghagra, Gandak, Rapti, Mahanadi, Tapti, Narmada, Godavari and Krishna.

DECCAN AIRWAYS (ACCIDENT)

***50. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents to aircraft of the Deccan Airways in 1952;

(b) the dates on which they occurred;

(c) (i) the loss of life, (ii) the number of persons injured seriously and (iii) injured slightly;

(d) the causes so far known for these accidents;

(e) whether the aircraft were insured, if so, for what amounts each;

(f) how many passengers were insured;

(g) what was the total damage in each case; and

(h) what action Government have taken in each case?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Two.

(b) 19th February and 30th April.

(c) (i) 12 persons killed;

(ii) 11 seriously injured; and

(iii) 3 slightly injured.

(d) The first accident is attributed to error of judgment on the part of the pilot while attempting landing at night. He misjudged the approach and undershot and hit a tree.

The second accident is under investigation.

(e) Both the aircraft were insured for Rs. 1,25,000 each.