

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.

(f) Information is not available.

(g) Both the aircraft and the goods carried on them were destroyed. The value of such goods is not known. No property outside the aircraft was damaged.

(h) An Expert Committee investigated the first accident and made certain recommendations a copy of which is laid on the Table. These recommendations have been accepted by Government and are being implemented. A formal investigation by a Court of enquiry consisting of the hon. Mr. Justice N. Chandrasekhara Aiyar, of the Supreme Court has been ordered and the investigation is proceeding.

STATEMENT

Recommendations of the Committee of Enquiry on the accident to the Deccan Airways Dakota aircraft VT-AXE at Nagpur aerodrome on the 19th February 1952.

(i) There should be strict enforcement and checking of operating procedures as laid down in the Company's Operating Instructions and more effective supervision over the flying habits of aircrews;

(ii) in selecting the aircrew for the operation of the night airmail service, it should be ensured that not only the Captain but also the co-pilots are of proved ability and possess long and mature experience of air transport flying;

(iii) the question of crew fatigue particularly on night services should be studied in consultation with experts on aeronautical medicine;

(iv) normally, for landings at night, the requirement to make a circuit or a partial circuit of the aerodrome should not be waived;

(v) every effort be made to accelerate the provision of high intensity runway and approach lighting at Nagpur, regarding which the committee noted, action had already been initiated by the Civil Aviation Department.

KHANDWA-HYDERABAD RAIL LINK.

*51. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the position of the scheme for joining Khandwa with Hyderabad border via Akola?

(b) Is there any likelihood of this project being taken up for early consideration?

(c) Is it proposed to provide any amount in the Budget for 1952-53 for this project?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The project for a metre gauge connection between Khandwa and Hingoli has been examined piecemeal on more than one occasion in the past, but is now being re-surveyed as a whole by the Western Railway with the object of providing the Railway Ministry with an up-to-date appreciation.

(b) When the up-to-date survey reports and estimates are received, the project will be submitted to the Central Board of Transport for early consideration.

(c) No.

RAILWAY STATION AT AMRAVATI

*52. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount provided for building the new railway station at Amravati (Amraoti) on the Central Region?

(b) Have Government considered the possibility of changing the site of the station from the present location to a site which would be more suitable?

(c) By what time is the new building expected to be completed?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) There is no proposal at present to construct a completely new Railway station at Amraoti, but an estimate amounting to almost Rs. 2 lakhs was sanctioned in November, 1951, for a number of works relating to additional amenities for passengers at this station.

(b) No.

(c) Work has been started on the additional amenities and is expected to be completed by about May 1953.

FALLOW LAND

*53. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total fallow land which was reclaimed in 1950-51;

(b) the estimate of such land to be reclaimed in the year 1952-53; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to develop fallow land?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 8,52,674 acres of cultivable fallow and waste lands.