

are 263 loco sheds in India of which 42 are in the Northern and 46 in the North Eastern zones.

(b) and (c). The Northern and North Eastern zones were not formed in 1950-51 and 1951-52. The information in respect of railways now located in these zones for 1950-51 and 1951-52 is being obtained and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know whether the total number and the percentage of fitters and technicians employed increased during the period 1947 to 1952?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I shall require notice.

Shri Ganpati Ram: May I know what are the terms of wages and service of fitters and technicians—whether they are daily, weekly or monthly, and at what rate according to the class of work?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Naturally, I shall require notice for that.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Would the Railway Minister please state if there is any idea of removing the Kanchrapara Loco Shed to anywhere in the North-Eastern Zone?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I shall require notice.

NEW RAILWAY LINE IN VINDHYA PRADESH

*1271. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any steps regarding construction of any new railway line in Vindhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so the proposals before them?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) and (b). The following proposals for construction of new railway lines in Vindhya Pradesh are under consideration:

(i) Sumerpur to Katni via Harpalpur and Chhatarpur.

(ii) Garhwhah Road to Manikpur via Singrauli.

(iii) Umaria Branch.

None of the above has, however, so far been approved for construction.

Shri Syamaandan Sabaya: Will the Government be pleased to state if they are considering proposals to restore the railway lines which were abandoned during the war?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

श्री बी० पी० शास्त्री : क्या पंच वर्षीय योजना के अन्दर कोई ऐसी स्कीम है कि जिस से विन्ध्य प्रदेश में रेलवे लाइन निकाली जा सके ?

श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री : अभी तक तो स्कीम में नहीं है लेकिन जसा मैं न अभी बताया इन तीनों रेलवे लाइनों पर विचार हो रहा है। अभी कोई फैसला नहीं हुआ है।

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether there is any policy with regard to laying out new lines and, if so, what is the policy?

Mr. Speaker: It is too wide a question. It cannot be answered in a short manner.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

*1272. **Shri Raghavaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total number of agricultural labourers unemployed during the years 1948 to 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): No data on unemployment of agricultural workers is available. I should like to add, however, that data on unemployment of men agricultural workers have been collected during the intensive family survey in the third stage of the Agricultural Labour Enquiry. These are being tabulated, and on the completion of the tabulation it will be possible to have an idea of the unemployment of men workers in the sample agricultural workers' families governed by the intensive family survey.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether the percentage of unemployment among the agricultural workers has been increasing or decreasing in the last ten years?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said, we have no data on unemployment among agricultural workers.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Government be pleased to institute a census of the unemployed agricultural labour?

Shri Karmarkar: We will take that suggestion, Sir.