

(d) whether any local persons have been asked to assist in this survey; and

(e) when the proposal will be finalised?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) Yes.

(b) It has been decided to convert Pullampeta Halt into a Flag station.

(c) and (d): Do not arise.

(e) The conversion will be effected during 1953-54.

Bidi Labour (Deductions)

635. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what deductions are permissible to be made by the employers in the minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act?

(b) Are Government aware that Bidi manufacturers in Madhya Pradesh have been making deductions to the extent of 33 per cent. or so in case of minimum wages fixed for Bidi Labour under the Act?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The permissible deductions are those laid down in Section 7 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

(b) It is understood that deductions are not made from minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act; but bidders which are not up to the standard are rejected and payment is made according to minimum rates of wages for accepted Bidis.

PASSENGER AMENITIES

636. **Shri H. G. Valsbhuav:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what amount has been spent for the amenities of Railway passengers over the metre gauge system of the Central Railway (previously N. S. Railway) in Hyderabad State in the years 1951 and 1952?

(b) What amenities have been provided to them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) In 1950-51 the expenditure was Rs. 3,98,346. In 1951-52 it is expected to be Rs. 3,75,805.

(b) A number of amenities have been provided at various stations and those include:

(1) Covering over passenger platforms.

(2) Refreshment rooms.

(3) Water coolers, drinking water shelters and shower baths.

(4) Waiting rooms.

(5) Approach roads to stations and their electrification.

(6) Lengthening, surfacing, raising and electrification and covering over passenger platforms and other improvements.

(7) Additions and alterations to booking offices.

(8) Platform benches, additional name boards, etc.

(9) Improvements to waiting halls and refreshment rooms.

(10) New station buildings.

(11) Electric lights in station buildings and platforms, improvement to lighting and provision of additional ceiling fans on station platforms, waiting rooms including lights and fans in tea stalls and refreshment rooms.

(12) Improved lighting and fans in Class III compartments of Metre Gauge Coaches.

LABOUR WELFARE ADVISERS

637. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Labour Welfare Advisers working on the Western Railway on the 1st November, 1952;

(b) whether it is a fact that an expansion of the Labour Welfare Organisation on the Western Railway was sanctioned by the Railway Board early in March, 1951;

(c) whether it is a fact that in spite of several Selection Boards, the Western Railway Administration has failed to select the required number of Labour Welfare Advisers; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any steps in the matter and if so, by what time the Organisation is likely to come in full swing?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) The number of Labour Welfare Advisers working on the Western Railway on 1.11.52 was 10.

(b) Yes, in February, 1951.