

may come under sugarcane cultivation. But, that will be a very small area.

Railway Employees

*1091. **Shri Radha Raman**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Questions Nos. 541 and 1189 on the 4th April, and the 27th September, 1955 respectively and state:

(a) whether Government have come to any decision regarding the question of imposing the penalty of withholding increments on their staff;

(b) whether any cases have been instituted by the aggrieved staff against the Railway Administration; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome of such cases?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Government have come to the conclusion that the withholding of increments under the Service Rules is in order.

(b) Some cases have been instituted by staff whose increments were withheld.

(c) In some cases, withholding of increments has been held to be *ultra vires* of the Payment of Wages Act and in others, not so.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether any case was instituted by some of those who were aggrieved and Government has lost that case?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, that was in Bombay. But the Punjab High Court held that it is not *ultra vires* of the Payment of Wages Act and there the staff lost the case. Therefore, Government are thinking of bringing an amendment to the Payment of Wages Act.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bhopal-Bina Railway Line

*1018. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 270 on the 30th July, 1956 and state:

(a) whether a firm decision has since been taken regarding doubling the line from Bhopal to Bina;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Final decision will be taken only after the Survey Report is received and examined by the Railway Board.

National Highways (Mysore)

*1099. **Shri KeshavaIengar**: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of the estimated cost of important National Highway original works in the State of Mysore sanctioned during 1955-56 and 1956-57; and

(b) how much of this amount has been actually spent and what is the sum lapsed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 10.74 lakhs and Rs. 7.77 lakhs respectively.

(b) According to the figures of expenditure so far available, Rs. 6.24 lakhs in 1955-56 and Rs. 0.11 lakh in 1956-57. As the estimates are current till the works are completed and they are not sanctioned on a year-to-year basis, the question of lapse does not arise.

Auxiliary Medical Workers

*1021. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi**: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-year course of training of Auxiliary medical workers is being implemented; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The two-year course of training of Auxiliary medical workers has not yet been started.

(b) None of the State Governments has so far submitted any scheme on the lines proposed by the Government of India.

Railway Accidents

*1023. **Shri Dabhi**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of accidents per million train miles occurring on the Western Railways in 1953-54 is disproportionately high as compared to those on other Railways; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?