

Khurda Road in the S. E. Railway zone and state :

(a) whether any decision has been arrived at ; and

(b) if so, what it is?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Sanganna : May I know when the decision will be arrived at ?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : I cannot give any definite date. The South Eastern Railway is a comparatively new railway and the work is progressing quite satisfactorily. After the divisionalisation of the other Railway is complete, we will take up the South Eastern Railway.

Shri Kamath : The Railway is not a new one; only the name is.

Shri Sanganna : May I know whether the importance of this junction has been increased since the separation of this zone from the Eastern Railway ?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan : Some hon. Members have been pressing that Khurda Road Junction be made the divisional headquarters of that division. That suggestion has been noted and it will be given due consideration at the proper moment.

Shri B. C. Das : May I ask whether the Members of the Orissa Legislature have sent a memorandum to the Government of India to fix Khurda Road as the divisional headquarters ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri) : That may be so. As the Deputy Minister has just now answered, the scheme of divisionalisation of the South Eastern Railway has not been taken up so far. When we take up that scheme we will naturally consider about Khurda Road also.

Soil Science Committee

*230. **Shri S. C. Samanta :** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) how many times the Soil Science Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has met since its inception ;

(b) what were the decisions taken in the last sitting of the Committee ; and

(c) whether they have taken up plant analysis along with soil analysis ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh) : (a) Eighteen times.

(b) The Committee scrutinised a number of new schemes, a few extension proposals and technical programmes etc. of the current schemes received from various Sta-

tes and Institutes. It recommended some of these schemes, proposals and programmes with certain remarks to the Advisory Board and the Governing Body of the Council for their sanction. Some of the new schemes, which are of a similar nature and have all-India importance, have been referred to special Sub-Committees for the preparation of coordinated schemes for implementation by the sponsors of the individual schemes.

(c) Yes.

Shri S. C. Samanta : May I know whether what is mentioned by the hon. Minister includes a three year's scheme ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh : There are a large number of schemes. It will be difficult for me to give the duration of the scheme. I have not got these details.

Shri S. C. Samanta : May I know whether the offtake of phosphorous by different crops will be examined on an all India basis by this committee or sub-committee appointed by the Government ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh : That will also be difficult for me to say. As I have already stated, we receive reports from State Governments and they would certainly bring forward important questions. I am not sure whether this particular item is included or not.

Shri V. P. Nayar : From the agricultural statistics supplied by Government we find that after 1935 up to 1952, the per acre yield of rice in the whole of India has considerably declined. May I know whether Government have studied this particular aspect with reference to the soil survey ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh : Not as one scheme. But, in the various States these matters are considered by our research workers.

Shri Chattopadhyaya : May I know whether any special study has been made relating to the nitrogen fixation of soil by the bacteria of the type of bacillus *radicicola* or by plants traditionally used in agriculture for alternation of crops ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain) : I will convey the question of the hon. Member to the experts and give him the answer next time.

Shri Sarangadhar Das : In view of the fact that so many fertilizer factories are going up and the demand for fertilizers is increasing during the last few years, do Government feel it necessary to have an all-India soil survey so that the different kinds and amounts of fertilizers can be applied to different soils and not all the fertilizers applied everywhere, which will be a loss ?

Shri A. P. Jain : We are fully aware of the necessity of applying fertilizers discriminately and work is being done in this direction.

Development of Laccadive and other Islands

*221. **Shri B. Shiva Rao :** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state

(a) whether any provision has been made for the economic and social development of the Union territory of the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands in the Second Five Year Plan ; and

(b) if so, whether a detailed statements showing the precise allocation of fund under different heads will be placed on the Table ?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra) : (a) and (b). The Second Five Year Plan of Madras stat- included a number of schemes for the development of agriculture, education and health services in the Laccadive Islands. The Central Government also had initiated action for providing a regular steamer service, increasing postal and wireless facilities and increasing local employment. Now that Laccadive Islands have become an Union territory steps will be taken to review the various proposals and bring them together into an appropriate plan of development.

Shri B. Shiva Rao : Is it a fact, that the retiring Governor of Madras, Shri Sri Prakasa, submitted a very detailed report to the Government of India about two years ago on the economic and social needs of these islands and may I know whether any action has been taken to implement the recommendations contained in that report?

Shri S. N. Mishra : Sir, it is a fact that the Governor of Madras visited these islands in December, 1954 and his recommendations were considered at a meeting in the Cabinet Secretariat and a number of proposals were formulated on their basis.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know whether Government is considering a change in the name from Laccadive Islands to Lakshadwip, which is the original name ?

Shri S. N. Mishra : That is a suggestion which may be considered. I do not know whether the Ministry of Home Affairs is considering that.

Shri Joachim Alva : Has the Government drawn any distinction in the matter of development of the Andaman Islands

in the Bay of Bengal and the Laccadive Islands in the Arabian Sea and have they transferred any experienced officers from this side to the other side?

Shri S. N. Mishra : The Government does not think in terms of making a distinction between one territory and another.

Dr. Rama Rao : May I know what will be the increase in frequency of steamer services after the proposed change — will it be daily ?

Shri S. N. Mishra : All that is under consideration at the moment.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Metre-Gauge Coach Factory

*195. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :**
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha :

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 1434 on the 25th August, 1956, and state :

(a) whether any decision has since been taken with regard to the location of the factory for the manufacture of metre-gauge, steel body, lightweight coaches ;

(b) if so, the site selected ; and

(c) the reasons for the same ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan) : (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Electrification of Railway Stations

*198. **Shri Jhulan Sinha :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the practical possibility of electrification of the Railway stations and their yards in the areas where power is readily available for the purpose from the " Tube Well " irrigation power houses specially in Eastern U. P. and North Bihar ; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to carry out the scheme ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah nawaz Khan) :

(a) Yes.

(b) Programme for electrification of railway stations where power is available at reasonable rates has already been drawn up.