

Secretary, State Transport Authority. However, in view of the subsequent proposal to consolidate all taxes on motor vehicles into a single levy and to entrust its collection to a single agency, namely, the Transport Department, of Himachal Pradesh Administration, the question of appointing a whole-time Secretary in the office of the State Transport Authority, Himachal Pradesh, is now under the consideration of the Administration.

Railway Employees' Participation in General Strike, 1960

3273. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Railway-men's Union has demanded the appointment of an *ad hoc* tribunal to go into the question of victimisation of railway employees for actively participating in the general strike in July, 1960; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No official communication has been received from the Union in this connection.

(b) Does not arise.

Reclamation of Land in Kerala

3274. Shri Ravindra Varma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey of the total acreage that can be reclaimed for cultivation from the area under backwaters in Kerala;

(b) the area of land that has been reclaimed so far;

(c) whether Government have any schemes under the Third Year Plan to reclaim more land from the backwaters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) to (d). The information has been called for from the Kerala Government and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha on receipt.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Kerala

3275. Shri Ravindra Varma: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large tracts in Kuttanad (Kerala) and other coastal areas of Kerala suffer from acute shortage of drinking water;

(b) whether, under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, Government have undertaken or requested the Government of Kerala to undertake a survey of the requirements and availability of drinking water in Kuttanad;

(c) whether, in view of the acute and chronic shortage of drinking water in this area, Government of India propose to accord high priority for providing drinking water to the people of Kuttanad; and

(d) if so, the steps that Government of India propose to take in this regard?

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). Due consideration will be given when a proposal for the purpose is received from the State Government.

Level Crossings in Between Haldipada and Basta Stations in Orissa

3276. Shri G. Mohanty: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Eastern Railway Authorities received in 1960-61, 1961-62 memoranda for providing

level crossings at certain points in between Haldipada and Basta Stations (Orissa); and

(b) if so, whether the memoranda were taken into consideration and the decisions taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). In September, 1960 a representation for a new level crossing at mile 135|6 was received by the South Eastern Railway Administration from Haldipada Gram Panchayat through Additional District Magistrate, Balasore. It would be feasible to provide level crossing but it would cost initially Rs. 9,000 plus Rs. 500 towards recurring maintenance charges. Under the extant rules, all these charges have to be borne by the State Government or the Local Civil Authority. The State Government have already been apprised of this position, but their acceptance of the charges is still awaited.

Malaprabha Project in Mysore State

3277. Shri Chandriki: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Malaprabha Project of Mysore State was included in the Second Five Year Plan and there is no progress in the work of any kind so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that the technical clearance has not yet been accorded to this scheme;

(c) if so, since how many years this matter is pending;

(d) what are the causes for delay and when the actual work is expected to commence; and

(e) how many years it would require for its completion and how many acres of land would come under its irrigation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri

Alagesan): (a) The Malaprabha project has been included in the Third Five Year Plan as a new scheme and is yet to be approved by the Planning Commission.

(b) Yes.

(c) The project was considered in the Technical Advisory Committee meetings held in October and December, 1961 and the State Government were requested to revise the report in the light of the recommendations of the Committee.

(d) The State Government was requested to furnish some additional information which they have done. The project report will now be placed before the next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for consideration.

(e) The project is expected to be completed in the 4th Five-Year Plan period and would provide for irrigation for about three lakh acres.

Promotion of Railway Protection Force Employees

3278. Shri Yajnik: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board have made any rules for promotion of the staff and officers employed under the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957;

(b) whether it is a fact that the selection of superior officers for this Railway Protection Force is still being made under the old rules of the Railway Board without regard to the rules made under provisions of the new Act;

(c) whether the selection for superior officers for the Central Railway under the old rules was objected to and withheld by the Railway Board on the ground that such selection should be held under the rules made under the new Act, 1957 and;

(d) the reasons why such selection is still permitted under the old rules though the rules under the Railway