

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: On our present reckoning, there are 75 uneconomic branch lines on the Indian Government railways. Of these, 10 are broad gauge, 26 metre gauge and 39 narrow gauge. If the hon. Member wants the break-up I can also give it. But immediately we are closing Kunkava-Dardi on the Western Railway, Lataguru-Ramshah on the N.F. Railway and Jorhat Neamati on the N.F. Railway.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: In view of the fact that these uneconomic railways are going to be abolished, may I know whether the State Governments will be consulted and whether any proposal will be made to the State Governments to come to the aid of the Central Government so as to keep these railways going?

SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Before a final decision is taken on closing down a particular line, the State Governments are consulted.

Mode of addressing the Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court

*942. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: (a) whether Government have received a copy of a Resolution passed by the Kerala Advocates Association in 1969 that the mode of addressing the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court as "My Lord" "Your Lordship" and "His Lordship" in the Court be discontinued; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to discontinue the relics in addressing the Judge and carrying of a silver covered mace by a mace bearer in front of the Judge as he comes to and goes from the court room?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) No Sir.

(b) The manner of address, procedure and practice in the High Courts are matters for consideration by the Chief Justices of the High Courts. It would not be appropriate for Govt. to interfere in these matters.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The answer is really very disappointing because we are living in a period when the concept of responsibility has greatly changed. May I know whether the Government would reconsider the position it had originally taken regarding this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: He is not asking a question. He says: let it be reconsidered. Are you leaving it to the Judges or....

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: The matter is left to the Judges to decide.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The Minister said that the matter would be left to the judiciary. I do not know why in the present situation, when even the Vatican is changing the dress of the nuns and priests, Government is, insisting on this.

MR. SPEAKER: What, do you want to clash with the judiciary?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. GOKHALE): This question of using these honorifics like "Your Lordship" and "Your Honour".....

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want them to be used for me.

SHRI H.R. GOKHALE:is not a matter of law. There is no law laying down whether this should be used or not.

MR. SPEAKER: If you call me as Mr. Speaker, why not the Chief Justice as Your Lordship?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: I am not against the suggestion personally, and if the law had permitted Government's interference in this matter, probably Government would have reconsidered this matter. This has come down as a matter of tradition. So far as Government is concerned, as early as 1952 when this question was raised, Government took the view that so far as Government addressing the Judges as in the past, Hon. Mr. Justice so-and-so etc. It was discontinued as a result of a top level decision taken in 1952. Since there is no law, Government will not use them. They will not use them with reference to individual persons also. It used to be hon. Minister. Now everybody is Mr. or Shri.

There is no law binding the Judges to allow this or not to allow this. Therefore, it is better left to be decided between the Bench and the Bar.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : कोई यह नहीं चाहता कि सरकार अदालतों में हस्तक्षेप करे। लेकिन क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में संसद् की राय से अदालतों को परिचित कराएगी कि संसद्, योअर लार्डशिप, योअर आनर, कहा जाए, इसको पसन्द नहीं करती है ?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : I am not aware that Parliament as such has passed any resolution on this. If and when this House expresses a positive opinion, I am sure Government will have to take note of it and take steps accordingly. At one time when the question arose the Chief Justice gave the view that there was no need for making any change in the present practice.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think we should drop this now.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We have got the same regard for the Judges. But suppose I want to translate the terms My Lord, Your Lordship, His Lordship, etc. in Hindi, what should I do ? मेरे आका, मेरे हुजूर ! (Interruptions) Sircar ? We address you as Mr. Speaker. In all fairness this should be discontinued.

MR. SPEAKER. Is it a speech or a question ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : My question is whether our feelings will be conveyed to the Judges that in a democratic country where there is no title such as Sir, no knighthood.....

MR. SPEAKER : We leave to the Minister to do, as he thinks fit or to the good sense of the lawyers when they plead, because they are the people who are to address.

Reduction of water supply in Muzaffarpur on construction of Eastern Canal from Gandak Project

*943. SHRI N. K. SINHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state : (a) Whether the construction of the Eastern Canal from the Gandak Project for supply of water to Nepal has resulted in the reduction of water supply

to the distributaries of the Gandak project's main canal passing through Muzaffarpur District (Bihar) during the months of December to June, contrary to the provisions of the Project Report ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to mitigate the hardship thus caused to the farmers in the Muzaffarpur District ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI R. N. KURELL) : (a) The construction of the Nepal Eastern Canal has been taken up per agreement with the Government of Nepal. This will not decrease the water supply in Tirhut main canal system.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI N. K. SINHA : How many cusecs of water per second pass through the Tirhut main canal and how many cusecs in Nepal East canal as per the original Gandak project report for the period December to June ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : The original Gandak project report had been revised in 1969 and it was again subject to agreement between Nepal and India. It has undergone some changes. For the Rabi period, December to June there has not been any specific allotment ; all that was said was that anything between 20 to 30 per cent of the area will be irrigated. What is to be allowed to Nepal for the Rabi crop is subject to agreement between Nepal and India ; it is not definite.

SHRI N. K. SINHA : Has there been any revision in the original schedule of distribution of water between Nepal and India in 1969, as disclosed by the hon. Minister ?

DR. K. L. RAO : In the original agreement for the Eastern Nepal canal the amount of water provided for kharif crop was about 630 cusecs ; later on at the request of the Nepal Government consistent with the agreement we had agreed to 850 cusecs, about 200 cusecs more are allowed now.

SHRI N. K. SINHA : What alternative arrangements are proposed for the people in Bihar in lieu of additional water supply to Nepal ? It is a chronically drought area and the