

## RAILWAY LINES FOR MADRAS

\*1360. **Shri Boovaraghasamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of representations received from the public of the Madras State for construction of new Railway Lines on the Southern Railway during the year 1952; and

(b) what were those new lines requested for construction?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) It is not possible to state definitely the number of representations received from the public of Madras State for the construction of new lines on the Southern Railway as no separate record is maintained of such representations.

(b) As far as can be gathered, representations were received mainly for the following lines:—

- (i) Division of the main line *via* Kakinada.
- (ii) Chamarajanagar - Satyaman-galam.
- (iii) Mangalore-Hassam.
- (iv) Trivandrum to Cape Comorin.
- (v) Kovvur-Ramapada Sagar Dam Site.
- (vi) Dingigul-Gudalur.

**Shri Boovaraghasamy:** May I know when the Government are going to consider the construction of the following new lines:—

- (1) Connecting Kumbakonam and Vriddachalam...

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The hon. Member is clearly making a suggestion for action. If he has only suggestions to make, and no information to ask for he may communicate his suggestions to the hon. Minister by letter.

**Shri Nanadas:** Among the lines mentioned just now, may I know which have been given priority?

**Shri Alagesan:** We are undertaking the Mangalore-Hassam line in the current year.

**Shri Muniswamy:** In constructing new lines, do the Central Government consult the State Government and if so, on what points?

**Shri Alagesan:** Certainly. They urge the importance of the new con-

structions that have to be undertaken and it is considered in the Central Board of Transport.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Is it a fact that dismantled railways will be re-constructed first before new lines are constructed?

**Shri Alagesan:** That question has been very widely discussed during the Budget discussions.

**Shri Nambiar:** Have Government received any representation for a railway line connecting Kumbakonam and Vriddachalam?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we are going into details.

**Shri Nambiar:** No, Sir. The question was whether any representations were received by him with regard to new lines, and in the list that he read out this railway is omitted. Therefore, I want to know whether any representation has been received in respect of it or not.

**Shri Alagesan:** The list I have given is not exhaustive. There have been representations regarding other lines too, and I will place the rest of the information before the House after collecting it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Sarmah.

**Shri Beli Ram Das:** I have been authorised by him to put this question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then it will come at the end.

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I would prefer to answer it, and just now.

**Mr. Speaker:** He may answer it, but it will come at the end only.

## FAMINE AND DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN MADRAS

\*1362. **Shri Vallatharas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the announcement of the Chief Minister of Madras State made on the 20th March, 1953 in the State Legislative Assembly that the problem of the suffering of the people in the Madras State, especially in the Southern District of Thiruchirappally and Rampad, has assumed such a dimension that the Madras State at this juncture cannot cope with;

(b) whether Government will lay on the Table of the House a statement

of the conditions of famine and drought that had led to such an announcement;

(c) whether the Central Government have been approached by the Madras State for any relief in connection with the said problem;

(d) what steps the Central Government propose to take or have taken to prevent further developments in the said State; and

(e) whether it is a fact that deaths of people and cattle are happening on account of famine conditions?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) The press report of the speech of the Chief Minister of Madras has come to the notice of the Government of India.

(b) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 24.]

(c) Yes.

(e) The State Government have not sent us any reports of deaths.

**Shri Vallatharas:** What was the financial aid given by the Central Government in 1952-53 so far as Rayalaseema was concerned?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Most of the facts are mentioned in the statement laid on the Table. But if my friend wants a complete answer I can give it to him.

**Shri Vallatharas:** I went to the Notice Office, but they said there is no statement.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall enquire into it as to why it was not available.

**Shri Vallatharas:** In view of the seriousness of famine conditions in Tamilnad, has Government under contemplation any scheme or do they propose to formulate any scheme for providing permanent irrigation facilities to the affected areas in respect of some six or seven districts—Tiruchirappalli, Ramnad, Salem, Tirunelveli, etc.?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The investigation was already made by the committee that was sent there; and their report is under consideration.

**Shri Eswara Reddy:** May I know whether Government propose to declare all these famine affected areas as 'famine areas' and apply the Famine Code in all these areas?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** That is the business of the State Government.

**Shri Vallatharas:** In view of the fact that the survey and other consultation afforded by the local departments there have proved fruitless in averting the aggravation of the scarcity and famine conditions, will the Government be pleased to consider deputing some one from the Cabinet, or the Deputy Minister, to go and personally verify the situation?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether this Government cannot advise the State Government to declare certain areas as famine areas and apply the Famine Code?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. We will go to the next question.

SCARCITY CONDITIONS IN "REDDI SEEMA"

\*1363. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are food scarcity conditions in "Reddi Seema" in West Godavary District, Madras State;

(b) whether people have to go to a distance of five miles to get drinking water;

(c) whether there is also scarcity of fodder; and

(d) whether any arrangements have been made to arrest the exodus of people from that area?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) We have not received reports from the Madras Government indicating any special scarcity in this area. Arrangements for dealing with scarcity areas are the responsibility of the State Government.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Has it been brought to the notice of the Central Government that this "Reddi Seema", that is the Agency parts of West Godavari district, have been affected by famine?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think such questions should be permitted. Really, he has to agitate it in the Madras Legislature and invite the attention of the Government concerned to the state of things in that particular area.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Is it not a fact that the representations of the people from this area to the Madras State Government have not been of any avail?