

The request for a reservation in recruitment to the grade of stenographers will receive further consideration.

**CHAMARAJANAGAR-METTUPALAYAM
RAILWAY LINE**

*688. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the survey was conducted and the estimate prepared to open a railway line from Chamarajanagar to Mettupalayam; and

(b) what is the estimated amount and what is its distance?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) A traffic and a preliminary engineering survey were carried out in 1948-49.

(b) The distance from Chamarajanagar to Mettupalayam is 89.50 miles and the cost of this project Rs. 4.32 crores. A better alignment, terminating at Coimbatore instead of at Mettupalayam has been decided upon. Its length will be 101.70 miles and the cost Rs. 4.65 crores.

हरपालपुर-छतरपुर रेलवे लाइन।

*६८९. श्री आर० एस० तिवारी :
क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या हरपालपुर से नीगांव होती हुई छतरपुर तक एक रेलवे लाइन बिछाने के लिये कोई भूमापन किया गया था ;

(ख) यदि ऐसा भूमापन किया गया था, तो वह काम स्थगित क्यों कर दिया गया ; और

(ग) क्या वह काम अब पूरा किया जायेगा, और यदि किया जायेगा तो कब ?

**HARPALPUR-CHHATARPUR RAILWAY
LINE**

[*689. **Shri R. S. Tiwari:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was made for constructing a railway line from Harpalpur to Chhatarpur via Nowgong;

(b) if such a survey was undertaken, why was the work suspended; and

(c) whether the construction will now be completed and if so, when?]

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) The project was abandoned at the time (1926-27) due to the poor financial prospects disclosed.

(c) The Central Board of Transport, in the course of a review in March last of certain railway projects, decided to postpone the survey of a project which they had approved earlier and which would have included a line from Harpalpur to Chhatarpur. The question of taking up its construction will depend on the priority it is able to obtain as against other projects, after its survey has been approved and carried out.

TRIPURA STATE EMPLOYEES

*690. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the re-organisation Scheme in regard to the employees of Tripura State is completed; and

(b) whether their pay is being fixed according to the new scale?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): In respect of certain Departments of the Tripura Administration the re-organisation schemes as well as the revision of the scales of pay of the various posts have been sanctioned. There are certain Departments in respect of which the proposals are still under consideration.

VENDING CONTRACTS

*691. **Ch. Raghur Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what system is adopted in granting contracts to Vendors on various railway stations;

(b) whether it is a fact that tenders for vending contracts are not invited; and

(c) if so, what are those stations on the Northern Railway where tenders were not called for?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Licensing system.

(b) Tenders are not invited.

(c) No tender was called for at any station on the Northern Railway except for six stations on the ex-Bikaner

State Railway portion, in respect of which tenders were invited prior to the introduction of the licensing system referred to in (a) above.

BOWRINGPET-ONGOLE RAILWAY LINE

*692. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy**: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rayalaseema Development Board has recommended for laying out a Railway line between Bowringpet and Ongole via Madanapalli, Rayachoti and Cuddapah; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No recommendation from the Rayalaseema Development Board for laying out the railway line in question has been received by the Railway Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

MOTOR TRANSPORT TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

*693. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy**: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Motor Transport Taxation Enquiry Committee has submitted its Report to the Government of India; and

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the recommendation that uniform rate of taxation should be introduced throughout India?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) While the Central Government, by virtue of Entry No. 35 in List III, is concerned with the principles on which taxes on mechanically propelled vehicles are to be levied, the power to tax mechanically propelled vehicles vests with the State Governments, vide entry No. 57 in List II. Consideration of the recommendation of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Enquiry Committee's report regarding uniformity in motor vehicle taxation, therefore, requires negotiations with the State Governments, and the matter is under correspondence with them.

BALANCED DIET

*694. **Shri U. S. Dube**: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government have prepared any schedule or schedules of balanced diet, and if so, what steps have been taken to popularise them among the people?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Yes. A schedule of balanced diet representing the daily requirements of an adult for the maintenance of good health was prepared in 1944 by a Special Committee of the Nutrition Advisory Committee of the Indian Council of Medical Research formerly known as Indian Research Fund Association. This schedule as well as other useful information has been incorporated in the Government of India Publication Health Bulletin No. 23, 'The Nutritive value of Indian Foods and the Planning of Satisfactory Diets' Fourth Edition, 1951. Copies of the book are made available at a concessional rate of 8 annas per copy. Information regarding balanced diets is also propagated from time to time by Health Departments of States through lectures and exhibitions. The real difficulty is not so much lack of knowledge as the prevailing poverty and shortage of essential items of food like milk and fruit.

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS

*695. **Col. Zaidi**: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how the increase in the production of foodgrains is determined; and

(b) whether the technique of random sampling is sufficiently developed and takes into consideration every relevant item?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the increase under the Grow More Food Campaign. A note on the subject is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 5.]

(b) The reliability of random sampling technique is by now well established. Nevertheless, there is still scope for improvement in the method and continued research is necessary. Efforts in this direction are already being made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

RICE CONTENT IN RATION IN MADRAS, TRAVANCORE-COCHIN AND MYSORE

*696. **Shri C. R. Iyyanni**: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the rice content in the ration allowed per capita in Travancore-Cochin?

(b) What is the rice content in the ration allowed per capita in Madras?

(c) How much deficit there is in rice in the States of Travancore-