

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Sri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). The Construction work has not been commenced but surveys are in progress to select a suitable alignment and to prepare plans and estimates for the work.

(c) It is hoped that the road work will be completed by 1957-58.

PARLAKIMEDI LIGHT RAILWAY

***846. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Parlakimedi Light Railway (B. N. Ry.) to broad gauge line; and

(b) if so; when will it be taken up?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Sri Satish Chandra): (a) Yes.

(b) It is not possible at this stage to state if and when the work of conversion of the Parlakimedi Light Railway would actually be taken in hand.

ONGOLE—HYDERABAD RAILWAY LINE

***847. Shri Kandasamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of constructing a Railway line between Ongole to Hyderabad via Cumbhum to open up to hinter-land of Guntur, Nalgonda-Karimnagar and Adilabad Districts was suggested in Parliament; and

(b) whether Government propose to get this project investigated and if so, when?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) The matter is being looked into and a statement will be laid in due course on the Table of the House.

(b) There are already a large number of projects approved by the Central Board of Transport the implementation of which will take several years due to the difficult ways and means position. No useful purpose therefore is likely to be served by carrying out any investigation for Ongole-Hyderabad line at this stage, as a survey if carried out now will become out of date a few years hence.

CENTRAL RAILWAY ADVISORY BOARD

***848. Shri Kandasamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway Advisory Council will be continued;

(b) if so, whether both Houses of Parliament will be called upon to elect an equal number of representatives;

(c) if so, when the new Council will be constituted;

(d) how the local Railway Advisory Councils will be reconstituted in the light of the Re-grouping; and

(e) what steps will be taken to associate the local Members of both Houses of Parliament with these Councils?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) to (c). The matter is under consideration of Government.

(d) and (e). The reorganisation of these advisory bodies is under consideration of Government.

PROCUREMENT OF RICE IN MADHYA PRADESH

***849. Shri Kirolikar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of rice has been procured by Government in the rice producing districts of the Madhya Pradesh State and from the Durg District till 1st May, 1952;

(b) the States to which rice has been transported and in what quantity; and

(c) the quantity of rice which has been transported from Durg District to Travancore Cochin State?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmakar): (a) 1,83,812 tons of rice were procured by the Madhya Pradesh Government during the period 1-11-51 to 30-4-52. This figure includes 18,500 tons of rice procured from the Durg district.

(b) During the period 1-11-51 to 26-4-52 Madhya Pradesh Government despatched 8,853 tons of rice to Bombay, 9,975 tons of rice to Madras and 5,516 tons of rice to Travancore-Cochin.

(c) From Durg district of Madhya Pradesh 2,000 tons of rice were despatched to Travancore-Cochin during the two weeks that ended on 3-5-52.