

(b) Construction of Trivandrum-Cape Comorin-Tirunelveli Broad Gauge rail link *via* Nagercoil has been included in the Budget for 1972-73.

CORRUPTION CHARGES AGAINST ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL SUPERINTENDENT (EAST), NORTHERN RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD

516. SHRI J. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption and mal-practices against the Assistant Commercial Superintendent (East), Northern Railway, Allahabad, which are pending investigations by the Vigilance Directorate;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that this particular officer has been using his influence to delay the process of inquiries at various levels; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to expedite finalization of corruption cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Except for one case, enquiries undertaken by the Vigilance Directorate into complaints against the Assistant Commercial Superintendent (East), Allahabad, have been completed and the cases finalised. The pending case relates to allegations of corrupt practices on the part of the Assistant Commercial Superintendent (East) in the matter of arranging postings of some TTEs/ TCs and helping some staff in the cases started against them. Enquiries into this complaint also have been completed and the report thereof is currently under examination. Action as warranted will be taken in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission.

(b) and (c) There has been no case of delay attributable to the Officer in the enquiries undertaken by the Vigilance Directorate. All possible efforts are made to ensure expeditious finalisation of cases involving allegations of corruption.

COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR RAILWAYMEN

517. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the differences

between the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen and the Railway Ministry on service conditions of railwaymen have been referred to a Court of Arbitration;

(b) if so, the time by when the Court of Arbitration is expected to deliver its judgment;

(c) the time since when the Court has been functioning;

(d) what is the total expenditure incurred so far on the Court; and

(e) what is the budgetary allotment for the Court?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Eight issues on which agreement could not be reached between the Railway Board and the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen under the Permanent Negotiating Machinery were referred to an *ad hoc* Tribunal as provided for in the Permanent Negotiating Machinery Scheme.

(b) The Tribunal's recommendations are expected by the end of June, 1972.

(c) This Tribunal was appointed in terms of Resolution of the Government dated 28th January, 1969, and the Tribunal started functioning with effect from the 20th February, 1969.

(d) From its inception upto the end of Financial Year 1971-72, the total expenditure incurred by the Railway Labour Tribunal's Office at Ahmedabad was Rs. 3,75,300.00

(e) The budgetary allotment up to 30-6-72 is Rs. 4,01,900.00.

GOODS AND PARCELS HANDLING CONTRACT AT SHALIMAR

518. SHRI J. P. YADAV:
SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints regarding corrupt practices by High Power Tender Committee consisting of Chief Commercial Superintendent, Chief Operating Superintendent, Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer, including General Manager of South-Eastern Railway in dealing with tenders for award of goods and parcels handling contract at Shali-