

improved by patch doubling. These master charts are being examined and then the decision will be taken.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know, Sir, whether it will begin from Jubbulpore or from Itarsi or from midway?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: It may begin midway or at either end.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES UNDER SUSPENSION ON THE CENTRAL RAILWAY

*432. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of railway employees on the Central Railway who are under suspension for more than four months against whom a departmental enquiry is going on or has been instituted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): 39 as on 31st October, 1960.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know, Sir, what is the reason for this delay, when there is a specific standing order that in respect of those who are under suspension, their suspension period will not be more than three months or about three months?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The orders are that if a person continues under suspension for over four months, the order of the higher authority will be obtained. That is the order on the subject. There are sometimes very complicated cases in which witnesses are not coming forward, complicated cases of theft, etc., and they may take some time.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know, Sir, whether the Minister is aware of the period, because I have asked only about cases of more than four months? May I know whether he has any data where the suspension period is more than a year or so? Has the Government got that data also?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: As I said, in complicated cases it may be even longer than four months.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, the reason why all these people are under suspension?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Different irregularities and cases like thefts, serious misconduct, assault, misappropriation, corruption, unauthorised occupation, etc.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Which of these cases are supposed to be complicated ones, as he said?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, what is the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He asks: Is theft a complicated one? Is disobedience of orders a complicated one? Is irregularity a complicated one? That is what you want to know?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When they are all mixed up, they become complicated.

WEST COAST NATIONAL HIGHWAY

*433. SHRI K. SANTHANAM: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position regarding the construction of the West Coast National Highway;

(b) how many bridges are yet to be constructed; and

(c) when the highway is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Work on the West Coast Road, which is not a National Highway, is in full-swing. Against the total estimated cost of Rs. 11.64 crores, an expenditure of Rs. 253.39 lakhs was incurred up to the end of 1959-60. An expenditure of Rs. 120 lakhs is likely to be incurred during the current year.