

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know whether there is any proposal to build residential accommodation for these people in other places—other than in Bombay—in Calcutta, Hyderabad and Madras?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: The provision of residential quarters is always under examination by every Corporation and every Department of the Government.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: May I know when it is going to materialise, since it has been under consideration for the last three or four years?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: There are difficulties in providing residential quarters. I cannot give any definite information as to when they are going to be provided.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Is the hon. Minister aware that especially in Calcutta low-paid staff have to come from as long distances as 16 miles to attend to their duties at odd hours at airports?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: Yes: I am aware of it.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Sir, is it possible to get a house for Rs. 4 in Delhi?

(No reply.)

SAMBALPUR-TITLAGARH RAILWAY LINE

*360. **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the proposal for the construction of the new railway line connecting Sambalpur and Titlagarh in the South-Eastern Railway Zone; and

(b) when the actual construction of the line is likely to start and how long it will take for its completion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY):
(a) The Final Location Survey Report and detailed construction estimates are in an advanced stage of preparation.

(b) It is too early to say.

I should like to add that both the reports are expected to be received by the end of this month.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the survey has been completed?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Originally the line was to go from Sambalpur to Kantabanji. Now that has been changed and a new survey has to be made between Bolangir and Titlagarh. So it will take some time.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know what was the reason for which the change has been effected?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: The direction of traffic is towards Waltair side and by this there will be a saving of 20 miles.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it a fact that the construction of this line has been delayed on account of the shortage of financial resources?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Yes, Sir. There is the general problem of financial resources but I may add that from the U.S. President's Fund some amount is expected though the sanction has not yet been received.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Is it not a fact that a team of our people has been sent to U.S.A. for procurement

of a loan from the World Bank particularly for this line, and if so, whether that amount could not be utilised?

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: No team has gone for this purpose but from the Asian Development Fund of the President of the United States an amount is to be sanctioned and that will be utilised for this purpose.

SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: During the last session it was announced by the Minister that an allotment from the U.S. President's Fund would be made shortly and there was also a newspaper publication to that effect. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether that publication is incorrect, as still no allotment has been made.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Sanction is awaited from the U.S. President's Fund. So far as the rupee expenditure is concerned, we have approached the Planning Commission.

SCHEME FOR FIXING A FLOOR FOR FOOD-GRAIN PRICES

*361. **SHRI V. K. DHAGE:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided in principle to the fixing of a floor for foodgrain prices; and

(b) if so, what is the decision?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): (a) and (b). The Government have given an assurance to the agriculturists in a Press Note issued on the 14th June 1957, that they would not allow the prices of food-grains to fall below economic levels and that they will take suitable steps from time to time to achieve that end.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Besides fixing the floor prices, may I know whether

the Government has thought fit to give any other aid to them?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: The various forms of aid are well known it is not possible to narrate all of them in this short time.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Is the Government aware that as at present the prices are soaring up the necessity is not so much for fixing the floor prices as for the fixing of a ceiling?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In many States we have fixed procurement prices and we are also selling food-grains at controlled rates through Fair Price Shops. But as the hon. Member pointed out, there is no urgency to fix the floor prices now.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: The floor prices differ from State to State. What is the principle underlying the fixation of floor prices?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: It should be an economic price, remunerative price, from the point of view of the producers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PROVISION OF FANS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS IN DELHI

*339. **SHRI N. C. SEKHAR:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Government hospitals in Delhi have no fans; and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to provide fans in these hospitals?