

whether these demands have been accepted by the Tribunal or not?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, the Tribunal cannot accept any demands directly. Only such of the questions that have been agreed upon between the Federation and the Railway Board can be referred to the Tribunal. These are direct demands made to the Tribunal.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to enquire whether these demands have been accepted by the Federation or not?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: The Federation is still considering the issue.

*584. [The questioner (Shri P. C. Bhanj Deo) was absent. For answer, vide col. 5279 infra.]

*585. [The questioner (Shri B. Gupta) was absent. For answer vide col. 5280 infra.]

*586. [The questioner (Shri B. Gupta) was absent. For answer vide col. 5280 infra.]

BIJVJRI-BARWADIH RAILWAY PROJECT

*587. SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much construction work has so far been done on the proposed Bijuri-Barwadih Railway project;

(b) what is the total (i) mileage; and (ii) estimated cost of construction of the project; and what amount has so far been spent;

(c) whether the construction work on the project has been stopped; if so, when and why;

(d) whether Government propose to resume the construction work; if so, when, and if not, why not; and

(e) whether any economic survey has been made of the area covered by the project; and, if so, what are the econo-

mic and industrial potentialities after its completion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a), (b) and (c). The 15.453 mile long Barwadih-Bijuri project was estimated to cost Rs. 16-15 crores in 1948-49. Work was started on the Barwadih-Sarnadih portion only and no construction work was undertaken between Sarnadih and Bijuri. In March 1950, 85 per cent, of earthwork and 50 per cent, of bridge work between Bar wadih and Sarnadih, a length of 40 miles, had been done when further work was sealed off due to the difficult 'ways and means' position. An expenditure of approximately Rs. 1 ■ 53 crores has so far been incurred on this por tion.

(d) and (e). The possibility of completing the portion already built, or a substantial part of it, after working out the traffic prospects, is under investigation.

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Is it a fact that some portion of the track has got coking coal and it is likely to be required by the-proposed steel-plant which might be erected in Madhya Pradesh, and will the Government take steps to construct the line as early as possible?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is 'or that purpose that we are thinking whether at least we could complete a portion of the line that has already been> constructed.

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: Has any provision been made in the budget for the next year and if so what is the amount?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I sVrf in my reply, the matter is under investigation.

SHRI B. K. MUKERJEE: Am I t-understand that the Government "v dertake these constructions withou¹ these surveys being made, as the hor Minister says in replv to oart (<i) the question that the possibility of

completing the portion already built, or a substantial part of it, after working out the traffic prospects.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, it is true that we were advised that the construction on this particular portion can begin even without completing the surveys because it was expected that it would not turn out to be infructuous in future.

RECEIPT OF BURMA RICE

•588. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when the first consignment of Burma rice is expected to arrive in India; and

(b) what is the total quantity of such rice expected to be received this year?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) The first consignment is expected about 8th May 1954.

(b) Nine lakh tons.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know, Sir, what is the method of payment for this?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That has been announced in the statement made by the Finance Minister on the floor of the House.

श्री कन्हैयालाल डी० वैद्य : क्या इस मुल्क में चावल की पैदावार इस साल इतनी कम है कि बर्मा से आपको चावल मंगाना पड़ा ?

t[SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA: Has the harvest of rice in the country been so poor this year that you had to import it from Burma?]

श्री रफी अहमद किदवाई : नहीं, पैदावार तो कम नहीं है, लेकिन लोगों को इत्मीनान दिलाने के लिए और मुल्क में कुछ हिस्से ऐसे हैं जहाँ कि वह चावल पसन्द किया जाता है उनको देने के लिए मंगाया है ।

t[SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: No, the harvest has not been poor, but it has been imported to create confidence among the people and to supply it to those parts of the country where people like it.]

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that the Government is proposing to export rice from India?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: Yes. Even before the war India used to import about 17 lakh tons of rice from Burma and used- to export about 24 lakh tons of rice of the Indian quality which was popular outside. Now, that our production has gone up, we are resuming our export trade in rice.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Government explain why is it that they import 9 lakh tons of rice from Burma and export 5 lakh tons?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: We are not exporting five lakh tons. Just now we have got a surplus of five lakh tons. As-I said, even before the war about 21 lakh tons of rice we used to export, particularly Bengal and U.P. rice, and we used to import about 17 lakh tons. Now, that our production has gone up, we will not be importing 17 lakh tons but only 9 lakh tons this year. And our imports during the next year will depend upon the production in that year.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: At what prices are they going to export this rice?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: At the prices which we can possibly get.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What price does the Government expect to get?

tEnglish translation.