

(c) the lines proposed to be taken up for electrification in 1953-54 and 1954-55?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). The following lines were electrified during 1951-52 and 1952-53 at the cost as noted against each:—

Year	Section	Expenditure
1951-52	Kurla-Mandhurd Sec., Central Railway (4.7 miles)	Rs. 4,15,411
1952-53	8 Single Track miles Up and Down through line between Bandra and Andheri of the Bandra-Borivli Sec., Western Railway.	Rs. 8,00,000
Total		Rs. 12,15,411

(c) Up and Down Through line between Andheri and Borivli of the Bandra-Borivli Section on the Western Railway will be electrified during 1953-54 (possibly extending into 1954-55).

SHRI M. VALIULLA: The expenses just now given are capital expenses. Is it so, Sir?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: I think so, Sir. But I am not very definite.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What are the running expenses? How much will it cost you to run them? Will it be economical if you do not use coal? That is the idea.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Running expenses on electrified lines are much less than using coal.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it the policy of Government to have more electrified lines?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, consistent with the availability of finance, etc.

SHRI D. NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, when the electrification of Igat-puri-Bhusaval line is to be taken up?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: It is in our programme. It is not to be taken up immediately.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: May I know when the extension of electrification of the line between Tambaram and Chingleput will take place?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: That is also under consideration, but I cannot indicate any date.

BUILDING AND PURCHASE OF OIL TANKERS.

*664. **SHRI M. VALIULLA:** Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to build or purchase oil tankers; and

(b) if so, what amount has been set apart for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The whole question of Government acquiring oil tankers for commercial operation is under active consideration.

(b) No budget provision has so far been made for this purpose.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Is it not a fact that in view of the oil refineries that we are going to have in India, more and more oil tankers will be needed?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Yes, Sir. As I have said, the matter is under consideration.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: What is under consideration? Will they be purchased or will other companies be subsidised to purchase them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All that is under consideration.

DISTRICT POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS APPOINTED IN MADRAS CIRCLE

*665. **SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMI:** Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS

be pleased to state the number of District Postal Superintendents appointed in the Madras Circle in 1952?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR J: Eight Postal Superintendents were appointed.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: How many of these Postal Superintendents are Graduates and how many are i.on-Graduates?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: They all fulfil the prescribed qualifications. I presume they are all Graduates.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Are there any maximum age limit and minimum number of years' service required for these posts?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Postal Superintendents recruited directly through competitive examination have got to fulfil the conditions prescribed for the all-India services, namely. I.A.S. and other services in the same cadre and for those who are promoted by selection through Departmental Promotion Committees, there is a relaxed age limit which is 40 or 45—I am subject to correction—but that is much higher than the age limit prescribed for the competitive examination.

..SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: How many of these were appointed by direct recruitment and how many bjr promotion?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: One Mr K. Ramamurthy was recruited direct through the competitive examination for Indian Postal Service, Class I, and ■one Mr. Raja was recruited as a war service candidate—and in his case I am not quite sure about the educational qualification—and the rest were alt selected through Departmental Promotion Committees.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Is it a fact that people who have not put in the requisite number of years' service have been prommttd as -Postal

Superintendents in preference to those who have put in even more than the required number of years' service?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I should like to know the specific case. I have got before me the terms of service that they have put in. They range from 2 O] 3 years to 20 years.

SHRI VENKAT RAO: Have any scheduled castes been promoted or directly recruited for any of these posts?

SRHI RAJ BAHADUR: I am not quite sure. I have not got the breakup communitywise with me.

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY: Is the Postmaster-Genera! usually consulted before having Departmental Promotion Committees?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Departmental Promotion Committees are composed of one of the members of the Public Service Commission and one or two Departmental Head. The Postmas-ter-General is hot a Departmental head.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: In this particular case, has the Government of India selected only those persons who were recommended by the P.M.G., Madras, or did they select persons other than those recommended by him?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Essentially, the rule is that those recommended and nominated by the P.M.G. are considered but in order to ensure that there is no favouritism on the lower rung of the ladder. Departmental Promotion Committees have been authorised to examine cases of deserving persons not nominated or recommended by the P.M.G. but whose records have been quite brilliant.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Is there even one single name out of the 8 which have been recommended by the P.M.G.. and which has been approved by the Governmenf 0+ India*

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I think that insinuation is not correct, and unless the hon. Member concerned wants to make himself responsible for that statement, I find it difficult to answer.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Not one of these eight cases.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: What is the suggestion?

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: The suggestion is that none of the candidates recommended by the P.M.G. had been approved by the Central Government.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I think that is not the case, ever.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, the hon. Minister will look into it.

COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND BONUS SCHEMES

*666. **SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR:** Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have forwarded a proposal to the coal mine employers that the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes be brought into line with the similar schemes of some other industries;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) what are the reactions of the employers to that proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) No. Government had, however, informal discussions with the Coal Industry in the matter.

(b) The proposal was that the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme should be brought into line with the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme 1952, in regard to recovery of contributions on the basis of basic wage plus dearness allowance.

(c) The employers pointed out that unless the price of coal was suitably revised it would not be reasonable to expect them to comply with the proposed measure.

The matter is under consideration of the Government.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the speech delivered by the President of the Mining Association at its annual conference held on March 12th, where he gave his opinion against this informal proposal of the Government?

SHRI ABID ALI: Of course, I have said that the employers are not very much in favour of it.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know whether the Government's informal proposal included the suggestion that the contribution should be based not only on basic wage plus dearness allowance—that much has been said by my hon. friend the Minister—but also on the cash value of the food concessions?

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, Sir.

CLOSURE OF THE OOREGAUM MINING COMPANY

*667. **SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA:** Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that even after the appointment of the Committee to enquire into the matters relating to the closure of the Ooregaum Mining Company, the General Manager of the Company has publicly stated that operations in the Gold Mine would be closed down on the 31st May, 1953; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?