

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I am afraid it will be the concern of the Railway Minister. We are trying to press the Railway Ministry in this matter as much as possible.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : In view of the fact that cold storage is essential for this industry, will the hon. Minister tell us whether the Government has provided any cold storage facilities in important centres ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I am in a position to say that some time back we took steps in this matter and at the present time the whole matter is being taken up so seriously by both the trade as well as the State Governments that not much attention is necessary on the part of the Centre.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ : Is there any import from Pakistan to India ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : For the present at any rate, no; nor even previously.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Are we to understand that apples are being imported because India cannot supply her own requirements ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I do not know the reason for the imports, but in any case the imports are very small.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : My question is : Cannot we do with our own apples ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : We are doing as much as possible with our own apples. (*Laughter.*)

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Then where is the need for importing foreign apples ?

SHRI V. S. SARWATE : Is it not the policy of Government that import restrictions are not to be used for the purpose of granting protection to an industry ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I am sure they are so used.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : In view of the difficulties in regard to transport, which have a very adverse effect especially on the fruit industry in the country, would the hon. Minister take up the matter more vigorously with the Transport Ministry and if he is not successful consider himself the question of giving all the help and assistance that may be necessary to the canning industry ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : My Ministry is perfectly conscious of the necessity of providing better transport facilities, and I can assure the hon. Member that every effort will be made in that direction.

#### RAIL LINK BETWEEN TINNEVELLY AND NAGERCOIL

\*204. SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rail link between Tinnevelly and Nagercoil has at any time been surveyed ;

(b) if so, the year in which such survey was conducted, and the estimated cost of the project ; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in executing the project ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) No.

(b) and (c). Docs not arise.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : May I know the source of the information of the hon. Minister ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The usual sources of information.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : Is it not a fact that this rail link was surveyed in the year of grace 1912 ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : In the year 1926 a survey was undertaken between Palamcottah and Punnagudi and the Travancore Government objected to taking it up to Nagercoil, and this survey disclosed that the line would cost Rs. 22 lakhs.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : Will the hon. Minister place on the Table of this House a copy of the objection raised by the then Travancore Government ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : It can be done.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : May I know what the attitude of the Travancore-Cochin State is now in this matter ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : We are not aware.

PROF. G. RANGA : Will the Travancore-Cochin Government be consulted in this matter ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : This line has primarily to be taken upon the recommendation of the Government of Madras. The Government of Madras did not include it in their post-war reconstruction programme, and so the line has not reached even the state of being considered by the Central Board of Transport.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : May I know whether representations have been received from representative organisations in the Travancore-Tamil Nad area ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : Yes, we have been receiving representations.

SHRI ABDUL RAZAK : May I know what steps have been taken in that direction ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : It is one of the many lines on which we have been receiving representations, but only such lines as are absolutely necessary for the implementation of the Five Year Programme are to be taken up at present. If finances are available, these lines also can be taken up after the usual procedure has been gone through.

#### RAIL LINK BETWEEN HASSAN AND MANGALORE

\*205. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

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(a) whether the Governments of Mysore and Madras have sponsored a proposal for the construction of a railway link between Hassan and Mangalore and have made representations to the Government of India to undertake the project ;

(b) whether Government have also received similar representations from the District Boards of South Kanara and Hassan, the Chambers of Commerce in Mysore and Madras and the United Planters' Association of South India, Coonoor, requesting that this rail link project be included in the Five Year Plan ; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in this connection ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN) : (a) and (b). The replies are in the affirmative.

(c) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : May I know since when this matter has been under consideration, and how long it will be under the consideration of Government ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : This question refers to a new line. There have been various new lines suggested by the various Governments, and all those lines have been before the Railway Ministry. The question of taking them up, as I stated before, depends on the availability of finances and on their relative importance for the carrying out of the development projects included in the Five Year Plan.

SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA : May I know whether the Government of Mysore have already surveyed the scheme and have already recommended it to the Government of India for inclusion in the Five Year Plan ?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN : The Chief Minister of Mysore spoke some time ago to the Railway Minister about this line.