

CONSTRUCTION OF THE MIRAJ-PANDHARPUR, KUDCHI-BAGALKOT AND
LONAND-PANDHARPUR LINES.

791. *Sardar V. N. Mutalik: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state when the construction of the following lines will be taken in hand;

(b) and what stage the consideration of the construction has reached:

1. Miraj-Pandharpur line.
2. Kudchi-Bagalkot.
3. Lonand-Pandharpur?

Mr. C. D. M. Hindley: (a) Government are not at present in a position to say when the construction of the lines referred to will be taken in hand.

(b) (1 and 3). Government are awaiting the revised estimates for the construction of these lines from the Barsi Light Railway Company.

(2) The construction estimate of the Kudchi-Bagalkot Railway was recently revised, the junction with the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway being placed at Raibag instead of at Kudchi or Chinchli as originally proposed. The project does not at present promise an adequate return on its capital cost and its further consideration has been deferred.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE EXEMPTION UNDER THE ARMS ACT FROM THE
SECOND AND THIRD CLASS SARDARS OF THE DECCAN.

792. *Sardar V. N. Mutalik: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) The reasons for withdrawing the exemption enjoyed by the Second and Third Class Sardars of the Deccan under the Indian Arms Act, in the new rules under the Act?

(b) How long the order enjoyed this right and privilege or exemption?

(c) Whether it is not a fact that when the British Government was established in the Deccan, Government distinctly gave an undertaking that the rights and the privileges, enjoyed by the aristocracy, i.e., the Sardars, would be continued without any interference?

(d) Whether it is a fact that this is the only recognized class of aristocracy from which the exemption is withdrawn?

(e) Will Government be pleased to place on the table the correspondence on this point between this Government and the Government of Bombay?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state any cases where the exemption was misused?

(g) Are Government aware that there is a very strong feeling of dissatisfaction at the withdrawal of exemption, amongst the Sardars, and the withdrawal is considered as a blow to their prestige?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state if they intend to reconsider their decision?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The privilege of life exemption enjoyed by the Second and Third Class Sardars of the Deccan under the rules of 1920 has not been withdrawn, but, as explained in paragraph 6 of the Home Department Resolution No. F-829,