

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उन्होंने गार्ड को पिस्तौल दिखा कर रोके रखा और कई माल डिब्बों की सील तोड़ कर गेहूँ और चावल के बोरो को लूट लिया ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इससे कितनी हानि हुई ; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि टूंडला स्टेशन पर अधिकारियों को सूचना देकर जब ड्राइवर लौटा तब गुण्डे भाग चुके थे ।

रेलवे मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री शाह-नवाज खाँ) : (क) जी हाँ, ५/६ मार्च, १९६४ को कुछ गुण्डों ने बरहन और मितावली स्टेशनों के बीच नं० १८० डाउन मालगाड़ी के कुछ वैकुअम होज़ पाइपों को काट कर उसे रोक लिया था । यह जगह टूंडला जंक्शन से पूर्व को और नहीं, बल्कि लगभग ६ किलोमीटर पश्चिम की ओर है ।

(ख) गुंडों ने गाड़ी के दो डिब्बों की सील तोड़ कर उन्हें खोल दिया और उनमें से तीन बोरे गेहूँ और १० कट्टे गुड़ निकाल लिये । लेकिन गाड़ी के गार्ड को पिस्तौल दिखा कर रोका नहीं गया था ।

(ग) लगभग २७० रुपये की हानि हुई ।

(घ) जी हाँ ।

Foodgrain Trade by Co-operatives

*1129. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to encourage co-operatives to enter foodgrain trade; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). It is the policy of the Government to encourage co-operatives to

enter foodgrains trade, but no specific scheme has been drawn up for this purpose.

Bridge near Hoshangabad

2287. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of the road bridge on the Narmada, near Hoshangabad, is very much behind schedule; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The construction of the bridge over the river Narmada near Hoshangabad is a State project. But the Government of India have made a grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 13.34 lakhs for this bridge. The work on the bridge was started in February, 1960 and according to the schedule the bridge was required to be completed by February, 1962. The entire work in the foundations and piers of the bridge has been completed upto the top of the pier cap, but further work on the super-structure has been held up due to non-availability of the required quantity of 3 m.m. High Tensile Steel wire in the country. The design of the bridge had therefore to be revised so as to allow the use of 7 m.m. High Tensile Steel wire, the manufacture of which has recently been taken up in the country. The requisite quantity of steel has now been procured. The work on the super-structure, will start as soon as the detailed design for the super-structure is approved by the State Government.

Itarsi Railway Station

2288. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the gates of the railway level crossing just outside Itarsi Station remain closed for more than half an hour at a time; and