

(b) if so, the details of the help sought; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): (a) to (c). When a team of Central Government officials visited the State of Maharashtra in September, 1961 to study the situation arising out of the floods in Poona, the State Government had discussed with them the question of Central assistance estimated at about Rs. 250 lakhs for repairs to the Panshet and the Khadakvasla Dams. It was agreed during these discussions that the consideration of this matter might be postponed until the technical investigations had been completed. Since then no further proposal has been received.

Rapti Bridge

*529. **Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 66 on the 21st April, 1962 about the Rapti Bridge on the National Highway No. 28 and state:

(a) when the Committee for enquiry into the causes of the collapse of span was required to submit their report;

(b) what are the main hurdles in the submission of their report; and

(c) what are the main obstacles in restarting the construction of the said bridge?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) By the end of October, 1961.

(b) The main hurdles are:—

(i) Difficulty of access to the broken ends of the main girder, (which are lying under a great depth of water) which has delayed the direct examination of the broken girder.

(ii) The sudden illness of the Chairman of the Committee (Shri G. Pande, Vice-Chancellor, Roorkee University).

(c) Arrangements have to be made afresh for fixing up a construction agency, to restart the work left incomplete by the previous Contractors for the bridge, whose contract has been rescinded by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Fisheries on Malabar Coast

*530. { **Shri Pottekkatt:**
Shri A. V. Raghavan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale disappearance of fish from the Malabar coast especially of sardine and mackerel;

(b) whether Government propose to investigate the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of the scarcity conditions of the fishermen in Malabar coast due to the non-availability of fish; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any relief measures?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) and (b). The appearance of mackerels and sardines is an uncertain seasonal factor. Last year the fishery was unprecedentedly successful. This year the shoals have disappeared. The research vessel "M. V. Varuna" and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute are conducting investigations into the causes of the failure of these shoals along the Malabar Coast.

(c) and (d). The Government of Kerala has already sanctioned free weekly rations for deserving families of fishermen. It has also given financial relief to the fishing communities.