

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

#### Vamsadhara Project

\*1312. **Shri Rajagopala Rao:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received any detailed scheme about the Vamsadhara project;

(b) whether the Government of India have suggested a different site from the one approved by the Government of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The alternative site is considered technically more suitable. It will minimise the rehabilitation problem of the displaced persons and is more economical.

#### New Level Crossings

\*1313. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of Government that the party requiring the opening of a level-crossing at any place on a railway line has to deposit a sum of Rs. 2000 for the undertaking of surveys and preparation of plans and estimates; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to relax this stipulation for the backward and tribal areas as in the case of opening post offices in such areas?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a) No, Sir. The charges for preparation of plans and estimates of deposit works, including level crossings, vary from 2% for works costing over Rs. one lakh to 5% for works below Rs. 1000

subject to a minimum of Rs. 25/-. These charges are not refundable, but are adjusted against departmental charges in case the work is carried out. As there were complaints of delays in providing level crossings wanted or recommended by State Governments, the State Governments were advised that for eliminating delays the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. of the area concerned may deposit Rs. 2000/- simultaneously with his letter addressed to the Divisional Superintendent, or Regional Engineer, requesting for the provision of a new level crossing.

(b) The rules permit that Railway will prepare the plan and estimate on receipt of the prescribed percentage charges referred to. The work will be taken in hand after the party, requiring the level crossing, has deposited the balance cost of the work or in case of a Government Department acceptance of the balance cost is received. Advance deposit of Rs. 2000/- having been suggested just to expedite execution of the work, the question of relaxation does not arise.

#### Cranes at Calcutta Port

\*1314. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the majority of the cranes in the Port of Calcutta are over 50 years old;

(b) if so, the reasons why most of them have not been replaced;

(c) whether it is a fact that such cranes are being manufactured in Calcutta itself; and

(d) if so, what are the difficulties in procuring them while the Port of Bombay imports such cranes from Calcutta?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir):** (a) The Port of Calcutta has a fleet of 372 cranes of which 162 are over 50 years old