

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know whether it is not a fact that the breaches occurred only at the culverts and bridges where these tracks were very weak and where no proper inspection has been conducted?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The tracks are not weak. The bridges were constructed upon certain data and if there are exceptionally heavy rains, possibly water could not go through the waterways. We are looking into the whole question.

Shri Ranga: In the light of these floods and the resultant accidents, have Government decided to make any special study of the engineering aspects so that when they reconstruct these bridges they would be able to do it in such a way that hereafter there would not be this bottle-neck for the flood waters to pass through as a result of which these accidents are taking place?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As the House is aware there was a Commission appointed and they have submitted a report which is under scrutiny.

Postage Stamp

+
*1068. { **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**
 Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that a recent commemorative postage stamp which contained a quotation from Kalidasa's "Abijnanshakuntalam" gave the Sanskrit translation (by some subsequent commentator) of the original text in Prakrit; and

(b) why the actual words as used by Kalidasa were not reproduced?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Sanskrit rendering (Chhaya) was especially chosen in preference to the original text in Prakrit having regard to the fact that Kalidasa's works were largely studied in Sanskrit rather than in Prakrit.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if Government has any mechanism for finding out apt quotations to be taken from our classical writers for the purpose of commemorative postage and also why it is that there is any distortion which should not be practised in regard to classical writers when we are supposed to quote from them?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: We are consulting a committee of experts in Sanskrit including Dr. Raghavan, Professor of Sanskrit in the Madras University; and they suggested that it will be better understood by Sanskrit scholars all over the world if the rendering was in Sanskrit and not in Prakrit.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Do we not owe it to our classical writers to quote verbatim from them when we quote at all and give the translation separately? Otherwise, it is rather irrelevant to them because Prakrit is also used for the purposes of conversation and dialogues in these dramas.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I well understand that Prakrit is really the dialogue from which is used in Sanskrit texts. All the same, I think experts' opinion should be respected.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Who are the experts who advised on this question?

Mr. Speaker: He has already said, Dr. Raghavan.

Shri Tangamani: The meaning of the passage that is quoted is:

"Thy heart I know not;

But Love, Oh, cruel one, fiercely
inflamed by thee,

Day and Night, my limbs and
desires are centred on you."

Whatever may be the case, the character has spoken in Prakrit. Will the hon. Minister consider that at least in future the original verbatim texts of our classical writers are retained and not translations by experts whom we have got at present?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The brochure is already out and I think it has been well accepted by the rest of the world. Therefore, this is really a suggestion for action which I will consider.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Indians in Addis Ababa

S.N. Q. 8. Shri A. M. Tariq: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure the safety of Indians in Addis Ababa where rioting has taken place even in streets; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) No.

(b) The latest telegram we have received from the Embassy reports that all Indians are safe. A coup d'etat was staged in Addis Ababa on 14th December, by the Emperor's Bodyguard, during the Emperor's absence in Brazil. The question of our taking any special steps to ensure the safety of Indians can hardly arise in the circumstances. Our Diplomatic Mission always has the responsibility to do every thing possible towards this end.

Shri A. M. Tariq: May I know if the Ministry of External Affairs have received any report from our representative as to how it happened there and may I also draw the attention of the Prime Minister . . .

Mr. Speaker: Nothing happened. So far as the Indians are concerned, nothing happened.

Shri A. M. Tariq: About the whole . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow that question. The hon. Member only wanted to know if our Indians are safe; and the hon. Prime Minister has said, they are absolutely safe.

Shri A. M. Tariq: I would like to know whether the Ministry of External Affairs were posted with the events in Addis Ababa and whether our Ministry has received any report about the happenings there.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have received brief telegraphic reports.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know the number of Indian nationals and people of Indian origin at present in Abyssinia?

Mr. Speaker: All that does not arise. Every Indian is safe.

Utilisation of Natural gas from Naharkatiya Oil Fields

+

S.N.Q. 9. { **Shri Goray:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, even after utilising the associated gas from the Naharkatiya Oil Fields, about 16 million cubic feet of it will have to be flared;

(b) whether Government propose to consider a change in their policy of not allowing private sector to put the gas to use in the form of manufacturing petro-chemical products; and

(c) what is the amount of non-associated gas that can be utilised but will have to remain unutilised till the public sector is in a position to utilise it?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Approximately 38 million cubic feet per day of natural gas will be available for industrial and domestic consumption. The Expert Committee set up to recommend projects for the utilisation of the Naharkatiya natural gas has so far suggested 5 projects which will consume approximately 30.8 million SCFD of natural gas. Other projects