

Roha Bridge over Krishna

†

*1956. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:

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

(a) whether the construction of road bridge across the river Krishna near Rangapur on Banaras Cape-Cornin National Highway has commenced, and

(b) if so, the amount that will be spent on it?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir

(b) The estimated cost of the bridge is Rs 36 29 lakhs

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if it is a fact that the Andhra Government submitted the estimate several months ago, and whether the tenders have been accepted and sanctioned?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The estimate was sanctioned by the Government of India in November 1956. Tenders were invited by the Government of Andhra and as soon as the tenders have been accepted and approved, work will commence.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Am I to understand that the tenders have not been submitted by the Government of Andhra?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Estimates were submitted by the Andhra Government sometime ago. Sanction of the Government of India was accorded as far back as November 1956. Thereafter tenders were invited. They are under examination.

Shri Ranga: How is it that it takes so many hours to call for tenders, then to examine them and then to accept them?

Mr. Speaker: So many years.

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is a question which should be addressed to the Government of Andhra. At any rate, we know of certain difficulties in the State in respect of suitable contractors and other arrangements for a project of this type, which is a bridge across the river Krishna.

Shri Hoda: Is it a fact that the execution of such projects is handed over to the State Governments and in this case, as happens in other cases, the tenders are invited by the State Government, then it scrutinises them and sends them here, and here again there is another scrutiny, and in this way time is wasted?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not a question of waste of time, because it is a highly technical job to construct a bridge over a river like Krishna. As the hon. Member pointed out, the tenders of course are invited by the State Government and scrutinised by that Government. They have got to make sure that they are acceptable tenders and then to apprise the Central Government about their choice. From the technical side, we have also got to approve the same.

Shri Ranga: Are we to understand that the Ministry are satisfied that compared to similar works done in other places, this amount of time should be taken, and had been taken before?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have so far studied four or five cases of this type. The same is the case with the bridge over the Nerbada and that over the Chambal. I find that about that time or even more has been taken.

Shri B. S. Murthy: There was some dispute about the location of this bridge at Rangapur, because formerly there was an idea to locate the bridge in such a place as to make the road run via Kurnool. May I know whether this bridge will connect the road via Kurnool?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is on the road from Kurnool to Farupnagar.