

Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have written to the Government of Orissa to give their concurrence to the investigation of the alternative site at Gudari and also permit their officials to enter the Orissa territory for carrying out the surveys.

Janata Express between Calcutta and Bombay

*507. **Shri Supakar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run a Janata Express train between Calcutta and Bombay via Nagpur to relieve the congestion of passenger traffic in mail and passenger trains between the two termini; and

(b) if so, when the proposal will materialise?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). There is no such proposal. However, the two existing passenger trains running between Howrah and Nagpur have been strengthened by two bogies each to provide relief.

Abnormal Features in Weather Conditions

*508. **Shri H. C. Mathur:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any abnormal features in weather conditions have been noted during the last one year;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been made in respect of them; and

(c) what are the conclusions from such observations and enquiry?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Turmeric

*509. { **Shri Ball Reddy:**
Shri B. S. Murthy:

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

(a) the reason for the fall in price of turmeric; and

(b) the position regarding foreign markets for turmeric?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The fall in prices of turmeric appears to have been caused by a sharp increase in production from 137,502 tons in 1954-55 to 155,660 tons in 1955-56. Internal demand for turmeric being relatively inelastic, a substantial increase in output has resulted in a more than proportionate fall in prices.

(b) Indian turmeric is in increasing demand in foreign markets on the whole. A statement showing the exports of turmeric is laid on the table of the Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 33.]

Chemical Fertilizers

*510. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of chemical fertilizers consumed in 1955-56 as compared to previous two years;

(b) whether there is any method of knowing as to how those have been used in the production of food stuffs and in the production of cash crops; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the output of compost and green manures?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 34.]

Hospet-Guntakal Railway Line

*511. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hospet-Guntakal line and the yard at Guntakal are to be remodelled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the estimated cost of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) There is no proposal to remodel the Hospet-Guntakal line but four additional crossing stations and facilities are being provided. The yard at Guntakal is being remodelled.

(b) The present facilities in the Guntakal Yard and the Hospet-Guntakal Section are inadequate to deal with the present traffic and the anticipated increase in traffic of iron ore from Hospet to Madras Port.

(c) The Guntakal Yard is being remodelled at an estimated cost of Rs. 26.04 lakhs.

Sone River Barrage

*512. { Shri Kamal Singh:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 580 on the 1st August, 1956, regarding the proposed barrage on the Sone River in the District of Shahabad, Bihar and to state:

(a) whether the complete plan has been prepared and has been received from the Government of Bihar;

(b) if so, the important features and estimate of cost; and

(c) when the work is likely to be taken up?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the scheme are as follows:

(i) A new Barrage, combined with 24 ft. wide road bridge 4,752 ft. long, five miles upstream of the present Sone anicut.

(ii) New reaches of the left and right bank main canal with a capacity of 8,000 and 3,600 cusecs respectively.

(iii) High level canals from both the main canals to bring under command new areas.

(iv) Total area to be irrigated is 17.11 lakh acres.

(v) Power benefits to the extent of 13,775 K.W. for 5 months and 6,570 K.W. for 7 months.

(vi) Estimated cost, excluding power portion and remodeling of existing distribution system, is Rs. 13.09 crores.

(c) The project report is under technical examination and no decision to undertake the work has yet been taken.

Howrah-Delhi Janata Express

*513. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 1st January, 1957 the 69 Up Janata Express met with an accident at Pora station of the Northern Railway;

(b) if so, what were the casualties and how they were treated;

(c) whether it is a fact that a relief train which carried the passengers of the said Express, including the injured, was detained for a long time at Aligarh station where there was no arrangement for relief and supply even of food; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 35.]

Non-Departmental Telephone Operators

*514. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are non-departmental telephone operators employed in the Madras circle;

(b) if so, their number;