

have the information. But the question is, how the figures in question compare with those of the previous year. That information has got to be collected.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know whether it is a fact that the irrigated area in 1956-57 went down as compared to the irrigated areas in 1955-56 and, if so, by how much has it gone down? What is the information that the Government possess?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Those are the figures that we are collecting. So far as the statement in the question is concerned, there is a shortfall. It is a statement and it is a correct one. But we want the figures to know how the figures for 1956-57 compare with those of 1955-56. Those figures are not up-to-date with me. That is why I said we are collecting the information.

**Sardar Iqbal Singh:** In view of the fact that there is a shortfall in the irrigated area, will the Government enquire into those projects which have not come to the mark or at least which have not completed their quota in respect of irrigation?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Surely This is a very grave question and the Government are considering how to tackle it.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** The hon Minister admitted that the shortfall is known to the Government. So, what are the reasons for the shortfall?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The question as to what the reasons are does not exactly arise. The hon. Member has asked how the figures compare with the figures for the previous year. So far as the other question is concerned, namely, how to deal with the shortfall, as I said, it is a grave question and we are considering it, and very soon our policy will be made known to Parliament.

**Shri Jadhav:** Is it a fact that the Bombay State has got the lowest acreage of irrigated land in the whole of India and, if so, is the Government going to concentrate on it?

**Mr. Speaker:** That does not arise out of this question.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I am sorry that the hon. Minister has misunderstood the question. I asked the question whether there is a shortfall and, if so, what are the reasons therefor. I have not asked for any comparative statement.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The question is whether there is a shortfall in the extent of irrigated area as reported by the States in 1956-57, in their progress reports, as compared to the extent reported by the States in 1955-56. Therefore, there is a comparison. So far as the shortfall is concerned, we admit it. It is a shortfall. But that is not the information asked for.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** What are the reasons for the shortfall?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon Member wants an answer to part (b) of his question—"the reasons therefor".

**Shri S. K. Patil:** These are the reasons for the shortfall. Of course, they have not been thoroughly enquired into, but as far as our present information goes, it is this. The shortfall in the irrigated area is mainly due to (1) canals and distributaries not being completed by the time the dam is complete and the stored water is available for use; (2) the time-lag between the completion of the project in all respects and the readiness of the cultivator to utilise the water for irrigation.

#### Over-Bridge in Delhi

\*699. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the construction of the over-bridge between Lahori Gate to Qutab Road in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the work is at a standstill;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what was the scheduled time allowed for the construction of this bridge and whether the work will be completed within the scheduled time; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) This is a joint work carried out by the Railway Administration and the Road Authorities. As far as the Railway portion of the work is concerned, there are 3 phases:

- (1) Portion of bridge over main line between Delhi Main and New Delhi Railway Station.
- (2) Portion of bridge over metre gauge track.
- (3) Portion of bridge over Okhla Canal refuse siding (sullage siding).

The work on items (1) & (2) has been completed. For item 3, masonry portion of the work has been completed and the girders erected; further work is in progress.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The work is scheduled to be completed by 31-7-57 and is expected to be completed by that date

(e) Does not arise.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know, Sir, what is the cost which is expected to be incurred on this bridge and how that cost will be divided between the agencies who are to bear it, and which are they?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I am sorry I have not that information with me here.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether, in view of the increasing traffic, Government have taken into consideration that the bridge should be sufficient to meet it, and whether it has undergone some change from the original plan?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We are making full allowances for the amount of traffic that will have to be dealt with. The Central P.W.D. and the Delhi State authorities are taking

steps to acquire land for widening the roads.

#### Ammonium Sulphate

\*700. Shri Ball Reddy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the enhancement of price of sulphate of ammonia; and

(b) the policy of Government in regard to subsidising the price of sulphate of ammonia?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The enhancement is mainly due to:—

(i) increase in the general tariff rate of ocean freight;

(ii) extra ocean freight on account of diversion of shipments *via* the cape due to the closure of Suez Canal; and

(iii) increase in the procurement price of indigenous production

(b) The policy is not to subsidise the price of sulphates of ammonia.

Shri Ball Reddy: Now that Suez is open to traffic, is there any likelihood of prices coming down in the near future?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: When the prices do actually come down we shall try and do our best.

Shri C. D. Pande: Is it the policy of Government to link up prices with foreign material when we can produce the same thing in this country at a cheaper rate on the plea that things are costlier abroad and not to reduce the prices when things are cheaper abroad, maintaining the prices on the high level, on the ground that we cannot produce it at a lower price?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This question may very well be addressed to the Minister for Industries.