

Road Bridge over Betwa River

*1712. Dr. Sushila Nayar: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project of building a bridge across Betwa river at Nalagar has been put off by the U.P. Government because of curtailment of Central assistance;

(a) whether Government are aware that the demand for this bridge is long standing both on the part of the people of Jhansi and erstwhile State of Vindhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to expedite the project?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). The Betwa river crosses the Jhansi-Rewa road at Nauhatghat and not at Nalagar. Presumably, the member is having the Nauhatghat crossing in mind. A scheme for the construction of a bridge over the Betwa river at Nauhatghat is included in the proposals submitted by the Uttar Pradesh Government some time back for grants from the Central Road Fund (Ordinary) Reserve. These proposals are being examined and the decision of the Government of India in the matter will be communicated to the State Government as early as possible.

Smuggling of Food-grains

*1713. Shri Ragbunath Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that smuggling of food grains from India to neighbouring countries is increasing rapidly?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Not to our information.

Train Service between Poona and Belgaum

*1713-A. Shri Assar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Janata Express train running between Poona and Belgaum has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the people of this region and of Karwar and Ratnagiri District as well have been severely inconvenienced on this account;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to continue that train; and

(e) if so, when?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) While there was no Janata train running between Poona-Belgaum, there was an Express train with 2nd and 3rd Class accommodation. The run of this train has, with effect from 1st July, 1957, been cancelled between Miraj-Belgaum.

(b) To find the necessary stock for providing an additional through train each way between Miraj and Bangalore City in order to relieve over-crowding on the Poona-Bangalore Mail and Express trains between Hubli and Bangalore City.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). These trains have since been extended to and from Belgaum with effect from 20th August, 1957.

Hirakud Soil Erosion Schemes

1714. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 1546, on the 30th August, 1956, in respect of the Soil Erosion Schemes relating to Hirakud Project area and state:

(a) the progress made in this connection so far; and

(b) when the scheme is going to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) 1160 acres have been covered by